

Residential Care 2026

Research Commissioned by Faith to
Action and Martin James Foundation,
Conducted by Barna Group

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Objectives, Methods and Summary

This report contains the findings from a nationally representative study of U.S. Christians commissioned by the Faith to Action Initiative and Martin James Foundation, conducted by Barna Group. This report also serves as five-year follow-up to the 2020 research commissioned by Faith to Action and Changing the Way We Care, and conducted by Barna Group. The 2020 research was featured in a [report](#) released in 2021 by Faith to Action.

Collaboratively, these organizations sought out to answer the following questions....

- When it comes to supporting orphanages, children's homes and other residential care programs for children, how do Christians engage?
 - What proportion of Christians currently support or have donated to residential care programs?
 - Do they regularly support these programs (e.g. monthly), or occasionally?
 - How much money have these individuals given?
 - Where funding is going – inside/outside the United States
 - Projected to the U.S. Christian population in total, what amount might this represent?
 - What perceptions and assumptions do they have about residential care?
- What proportion of Christians have taken a short-term mission trip to visit a residential care program?
 - Through what organization(s) did they visit? Their church? College?
 - Parachurch ministry? A non-profit that supports orphan care?
 - And what did it cost to go?
- As a secondary priority, in what ways might Christians be likely to engage in the near future? What forces, if any, might impact their engagement?
 - Considerations for the political, geopolitical dynamics

2025 Survey Research

Between September 24th and October 8th, 2025, Barna Group surveyed n=3,351 self-identified Christians, ages 18 and older. All respondents were recruited online through a representative consumer research panel. Respondents were quota sampled to be representative by age, gender, ethnicity, education and region online. Minimal statistical weighting has been applied to maximize statistical representation based on national norms for Christians in the U.S. On average the survey took 15.3 minutes to complete and the margin of error is +/- 1.5%.

2020 Survey Research

Between November 11th and December 3rd, 2020, Barna Group surveyed n=3,000 self-identified Christians, ages 18 and older. All respondents were recruited online through a representative consumer research panel. Respondents were quota sampled to be representative by age, gender, ethnicity, education and region online. Minimal statistical weighting has been applied to maximize statistical representation based on national norms for Christians in the U.S. On average the survey took 12.6 minutes to complete and the margin of error is +/- 1.7%.

The primary statistical analyses conducted in these projects are two-way z-tests for statistical difference. All differences reported on here are statistically different on a 95% confidence interval.

2025 Survey Sample Demographics

	Total
Age: 18-34	28%
Age: 35-54	35%
Age: 55+	37%
Generation: Gen Z	10%
Generation: Millennials	32%
Generation: Gen X	28%
Generation: Boomers	26%
Generation: Elders	4%
Gender: Male	49%
Gender: Female	51%
Race: Asian	10%
Race: Black	17%
Race: Hispanic / Latino(a)	13%
Race: Other / Multi-Racial	5%
Race: White	55%

Education: High school or less	36%
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Education: Some college	34%
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Education: Bachelors degree or more	30%
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Household Income: Less than \$60,000	59%
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Household Income: \$60,000-\$150,000	31%
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Household Income: \$150,000 or more	10%
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Denomination: Mainline Protestant	14%
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Denomination: Non-Mainline Protestant	46%
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Denomination: Catholic	40%
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Faith Engagement: Practicing Christian	36%
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Faith Engagement: Non-Practicing Christian	64%
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2025 Sample Demographics

Glossary of Terms

Generations

- **Gen Z:** Ages 18-26
- **Millennials:** 27-41
- **Gen X:** 42-60
- **Boomers:** 61-79
- **Elders:** 80+

Faith Engagement:

- **Practicing Christians:** U.S. adults who 1) self-identify as Christian, 2) attend church at least monthly and 3) and agree strongly that “my religious faith is very important in my life today.”
- **Non-Practicing Christians:** U.S. adults who self-identify as Christian but do not qualify as a Practicing Christian.

Residential Care Donors

- Say that they have financially supported an orphanage, children’s home or residential care program for children in the past year.

Denomination:

- **Catholic:** Self-identify as Catholic
- **Protestant:** Self-identify with any Protestant denomination
- **Mainline Protestant:** Self-identify as any of the following: American Baptist, Episcopal, Disciples of Christ, Evangelical, Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), United Church of Christ, United Methodist, and Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA).
- **Non-Mainline Protestant:** All protestants who are not mainline

Engagement rises: Financial support and mission trips to residential care have increased since 2020, especially among younger Christians and committed donors.

The church remains a gateway: Most trips, as well as first exposure to residential care for donors are through churches.

Beliefs are evolving—but conflicted: Christians affirm family-based care, yet still view orphanages as necessary, revealing unresolved tension between values and understanding.

Knowledge gaps persist: Confidence in understanding is high, but systemic drivers like poverty are still under-recognized.

Messaging can move the needle: Messages that humanize children, emphasize lifelong family, and explain transition pathways resonate broadly and deeply.

Opportunity ahead: With openness to learning high, there is a clear moment to align generosity with best-practice care for children.

Key Tensions in Christian Engagement with Residential Care

This research reveals several underlying tensions that shape how U.S. Christians currently engage with residential care—highlighting both opportunity for change and risk if engagement remains unexamined.

Generosity without discernment: Financial support for residential care has increased since 2020, largely driven by younger Christians and recurring giving models, yet this growth appears to reflect compassion and increased exposure through mission trips rather than informed preference for institutional care.

Confidence outpacing understanding: While most Christians believe they understand why children enter residential care, many continue to underestimate poverty and systemic family vulnerability as primary drivers—conditions that family-based solutions are better positioned to address.

Compassion paired with uncertainty about responsibility: Christians widely affirm that children thrive best in families and feel a personal responsibility to help, yet many remain unsure how their individual actions connect to broader reform of care systems.

Research Findings

1 | Financially Supporting Residential Care

Reported financial support for residential care has increased meaningfully since 2020, driven primarily by younger Christians, men, and Catholics, resulting in a projected \$4.5 billion annually.

While participation has grown, average giving has risen only modestly, suggesting expansion is coming more from new donors than deeper commitment. Donors are highly motivated by emotional and moral conviction, with giving often rooted in church-based relationships and recurring models like child sponsorship.

2020 survey question:

“In the past 2 years (since 2018) have you financially supported orphanages or children’s homes or other residential care programs for children? This may be a child in an orphanage/ children’s home that you are sponsoring, a missionary you support, a short-term mission trip or your church’s partnerships that are funding orphanages”

2025 survey question:

“Since 2023, have you ever financially supported orphanages, children’s homes or other residential care programs for children? Note: This may be sponsoring a child in an orphanage/ children’s home, a missionary you support working in an orphanage/ children’s home, a short-term mission trip to visit an orphanage/ children’s home, or a personal financial contribution to your church’s partnership with an orphanage/ children’s homes (outside of tithing).”

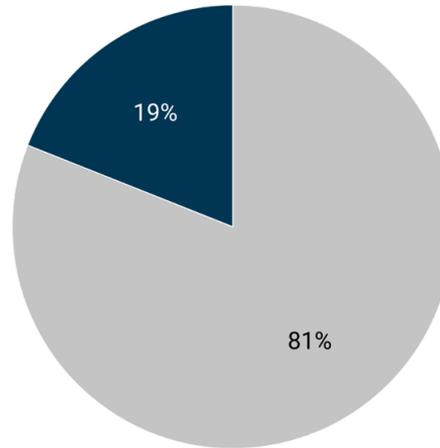
Rising Support for Residential Care:

28% of self-identifying Christians report financially supporting an orphanage, children's home or residential care program for children.

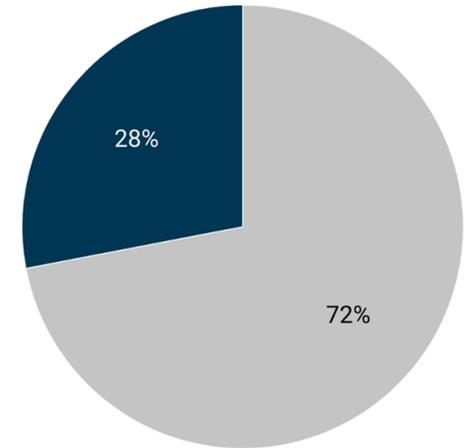
This represents a 9-percentage-point increase since 2020.

Residential Care Donors

■ Non Donor ■ Residential Care Donor



2020



2025

n=3,351 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians, September - October 2025.

The Profile of Residential Care Donors

Read as Percent of Residential Care Donors | E.g., 59% of Residential Care Donors are Gen Z/Millennials

	2020	2025	Change Over Time
Gen Z and Millennials	38%	59%	21
Gen X	33%	30%	-3
Boomers and Elders	30%	11%	-19
Male	56%	62%	6
Female	44%	38%	-6
White	64%	50%	-14
Black	16%	18%	2
Hispanic	14%	17%	3
Asian	4%	11%	7
Other	3%	5%	2
High school or less	27%	17%	-10
Some college	33%	32%	-1
College graduate	39%	52%	13
Practicing Christian	46%	50%	4
Non-Practicing Christian	54%	50%	-4
Catholic	30%	46%	16
Mainline	16%	16%	0
Non-Mainline	54%	32%	-22

n=949 Residential Care Donors, 2025 and n=450 Residential Care Donors, 2020.

Who are residential care donors?

Currently 59% of these donors are Gen Z or Millennials, 30% are Gen X and 11% are Boomers/Elders.

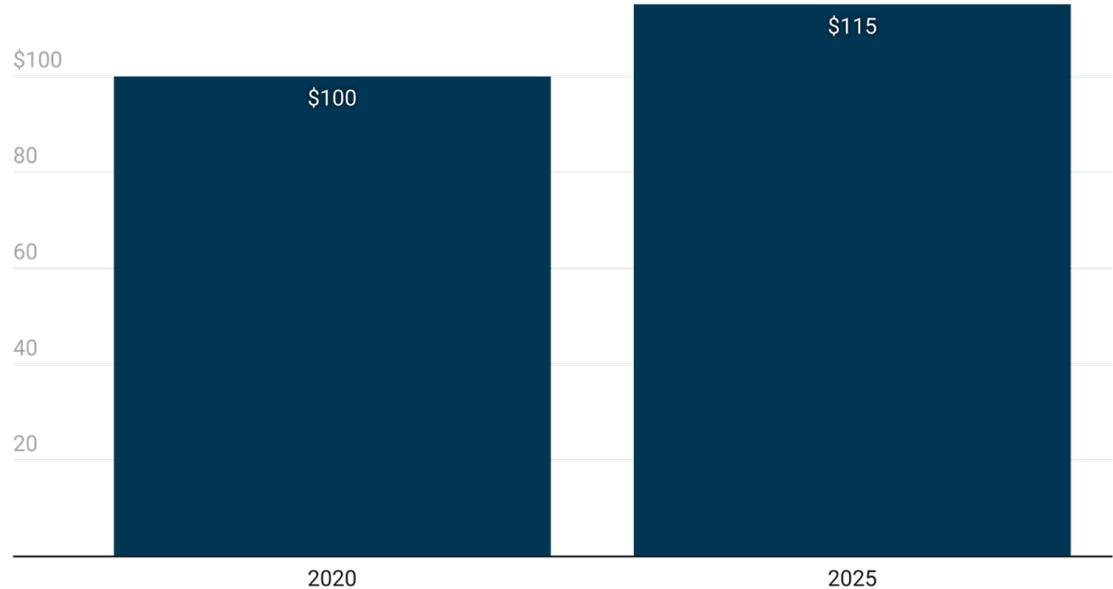
Two out of three are male (62%), half are racially white (50%) and half are college educated (52%). Denominationally Catholics make up almost half of these donors, while mainline protestants make up the smallest proportion.

How have residential care donors changed since 2020?

Young adults (Gen Z and Millennials) and men now make up the majority of these donors. Catholic support has also risen considerably while Non-Mainline Protestant support has significantly declined (22 percentage points).

Christians' Financial Support to Residential Care

Median Reported Giving to Residential Care



n=3,351 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians, September - October 2025.

**At the same time,
average giving to
residential care has only
increased about \$15 per
year.**

Estimated Annual Giving To Residential Care:

2020:
19% Christian Give
\$100 Annually
= \$2.5 Billion

2025:
28% Christian Give
\$115 Annually
= \$4.5 Billion*

**270 Million U.S. Adults, 68% identify as Christian (184 million), 50% are married and are assumed to be giving together as a household (instead of as an individual), 28% report supporting residential care (38 million), and their median giving was \$115 annually. For comparison, the U.S. adult population in 2020 was estimated to be 255 million. Population growth should always be considered when comparing projections over time.*

Top 10 Displayed

	% Of Residential Care Donors
Mexico	22%
Brazil	11%
Argentina	11%
Colombia	10%
Haiti	9%
Honduras	9%
Philippines	9%
India	9%
Guatemala	8%
Peru	8%

Question: "Thinking about the money you gave internationally to orphanages, children's homes or other residential care programs for children, in which countries are these programs serving children?"

Next 10 countries named: Ethiopia, Dominican Republic, Bangladesh, Chile, Nigeria, Nicaragua, Ghana, Kenya, Cambodia, Jamaica

Where do residential care donors believe their dollars are going?

When asked, Mexico, Brazil and Argentina were the most commonly named countries.

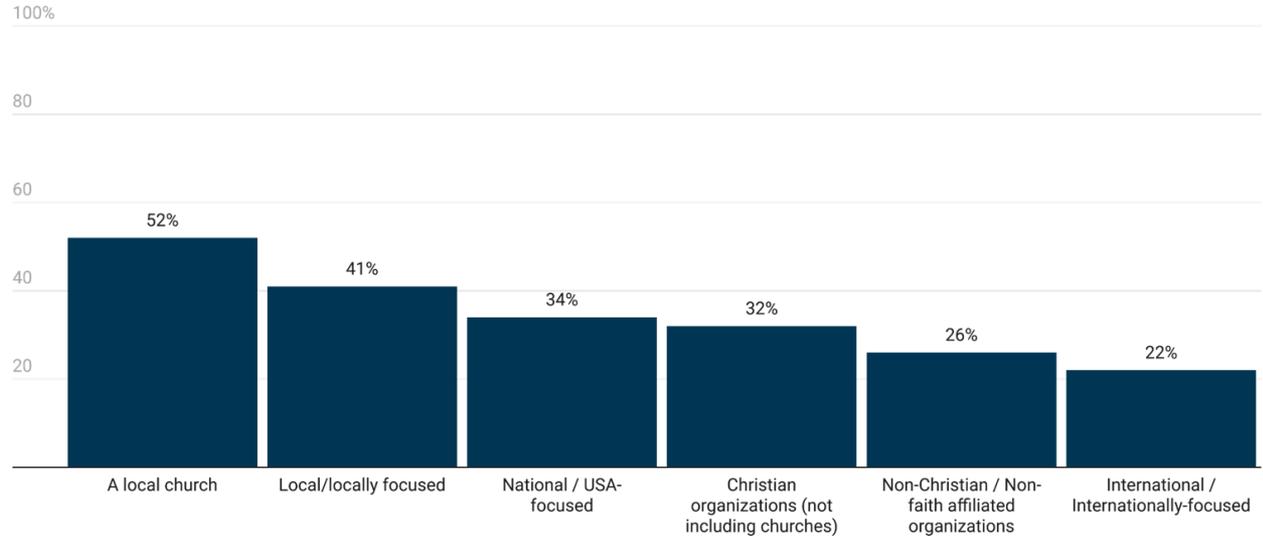
Note: It's important to acknowledge that there is an inherent limitation in the self-reporting nature of this survey data. The best way to interpret this data is to assume this is where Residential Donors believe their donations are going, rather than this being the top-countries that receive financial support.

How Does This Compare To Other Giving?

Barna presented respondents with the following descriptions, asking if they had financially supported such an organization in 2024.

A local church is the most common entity Christians financially support.

% of Christians Who Report Financially Supporting...



n=3,351 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians, September - October 2025.

When comparing the list of organizations respondents supported in 2018, 2019, and 2024...

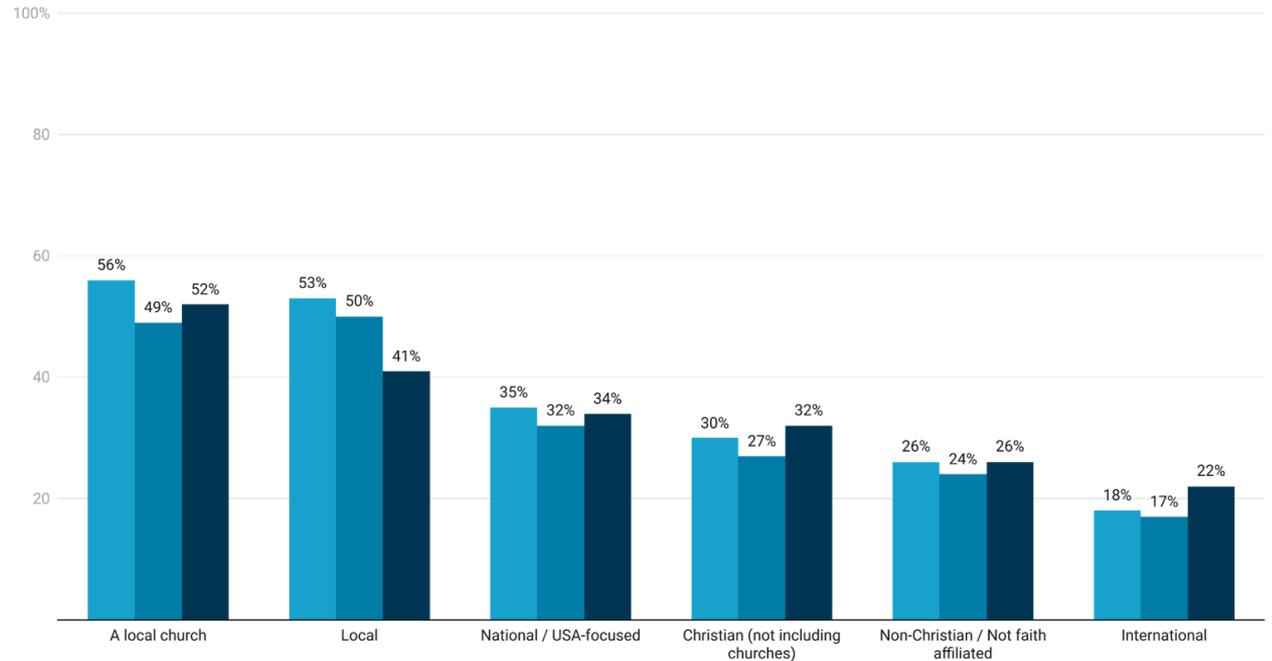
Local church continues to be the most frequently supported entity across all three years - remaining a top priority for Christians even as other categories shift slightly over time.

Giving “local” has declined over time, while giving “international” has increased, mirroring the rise in giving to residential care.

% of Christians Who Report Financially Supporting...

2018, 2019, and 2024

2018 2019 2024



n=3,351 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians, September - October 2025. | n=2,493 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians, 2020

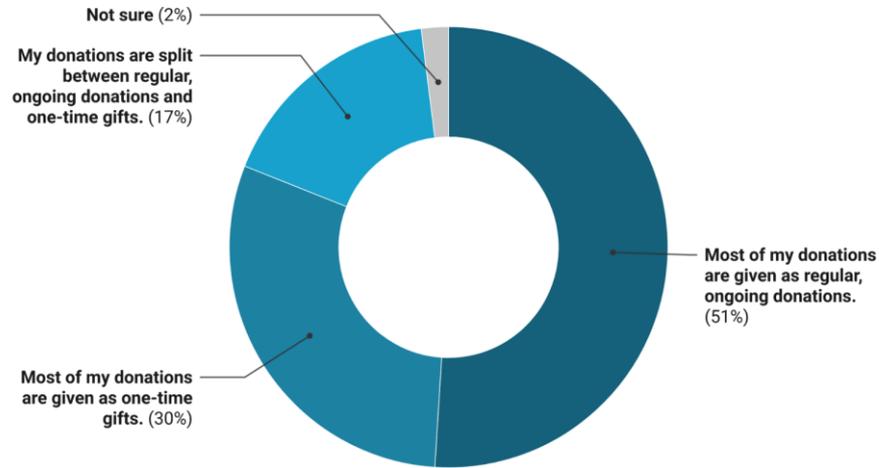
Note: The 2020 survey asked respondents about 2018 and 2019 and the 2025 survey asked respondents about 2024 so that the data represents an entire calendar year of giving. This helps to control skews in the data because of when the surveying occurred (e.g., the 2025 survey was conducted in September, thus asking about 2025 giving doesn't represent an entire year).

How Do Residential Care Donors Give?

Most Residential Care Donors Give Recurring Gifts | Half is Coming From Child Sponsorship

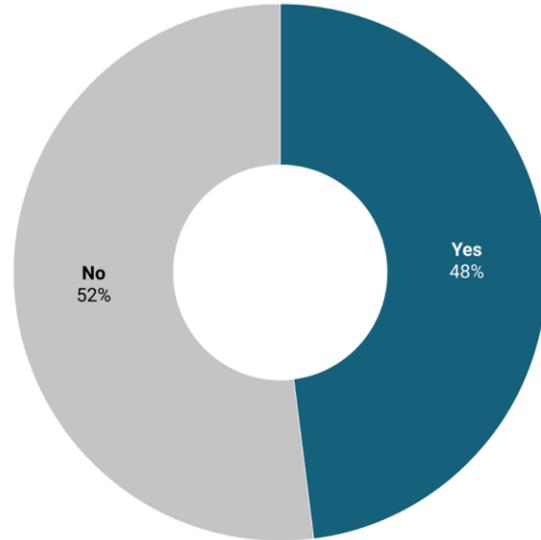
There are various forms of child sponsorship (e.g., U.S. based sponsorship organizations or direct-to-orphanage sponsorship). This survey research did not elaborate on the specific organizations or mechanism for sponsorship. This could potentially be an area for future research.

Which of the following best describes how you have donated money to orphanages, children's homes, or other residential care programs for children?



n=949 Residential Care Donors, September - October 2025.

Is your support in the form of child sponsorship?

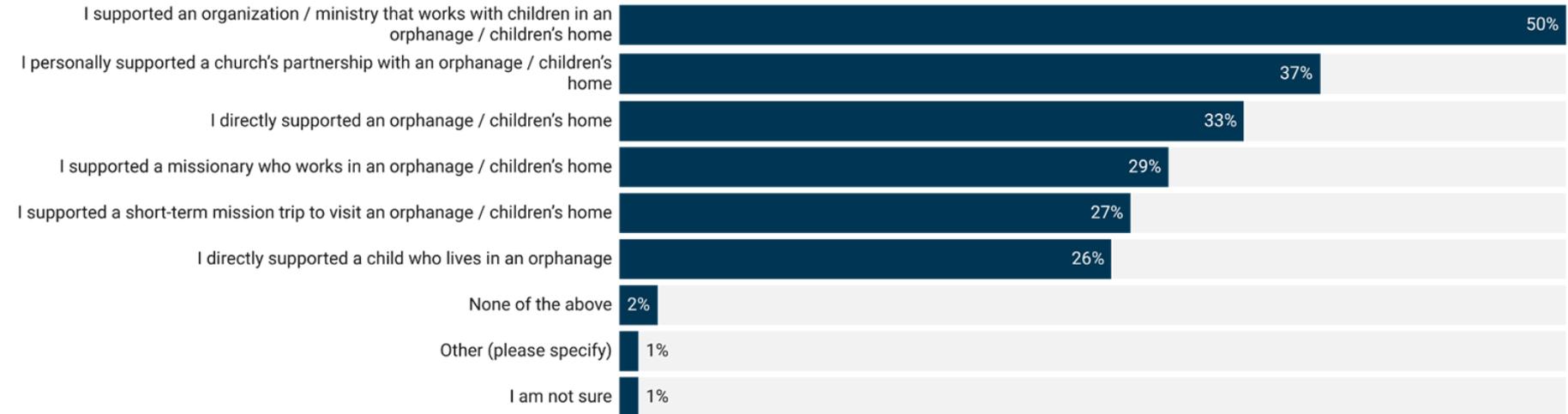


n=949 Residential Care Donors, September - October 2025.

Most are Either Giving Directly to an Organization or Through Their Church

Still thinking about your financial support to orphanages, children's homes or other residential care programs for children since 2023. Which of the following phrases describes the programs or specific activities you have financially supported?

Select all that apply.



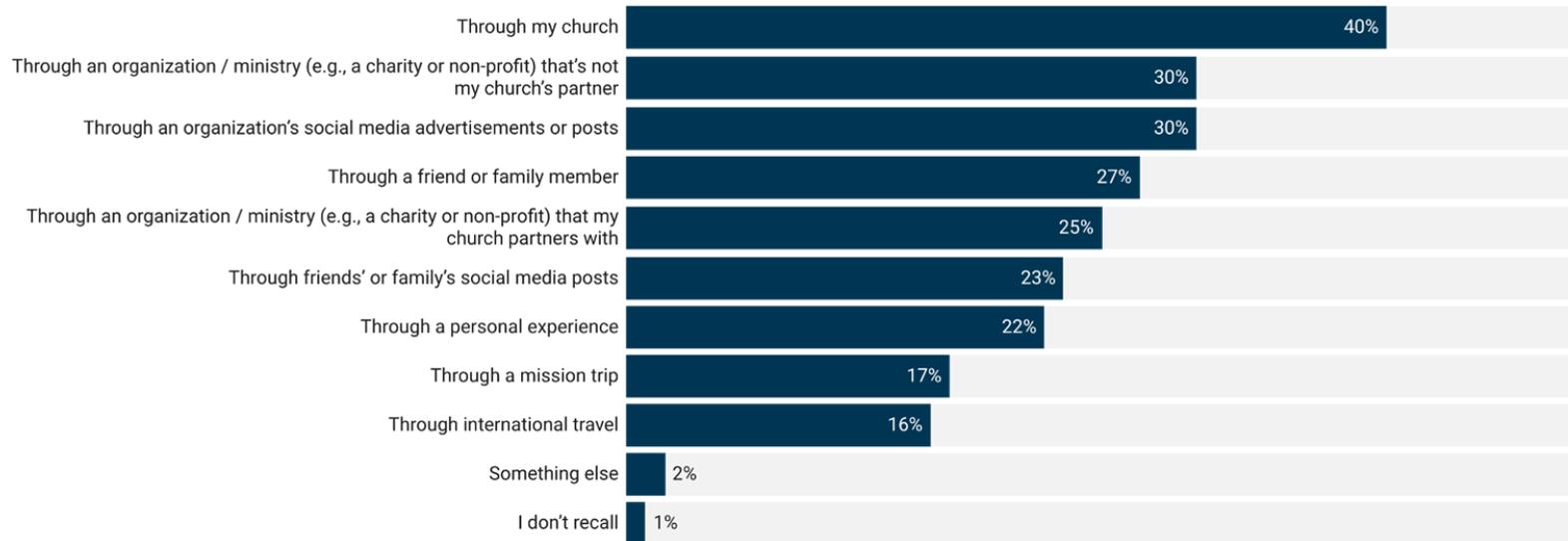
n=949 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians Who Are Residential Care Donors, September - October 2025.

Most Giving Connections Begin with the Church

Residential Care Donors were provided a list and asked to select what describes their first connection to the entity that they support. 40% of them first connected to a residential care program through their church, making it the most common entry point. When combined with those connected through a church-affiliated partner organization (25%), nearly two-thirds (65%) of first-time connections trace back to the local church network.

If you can recall, what was your first connection to the orphanage, children's home or residential care program for children that you financially support?

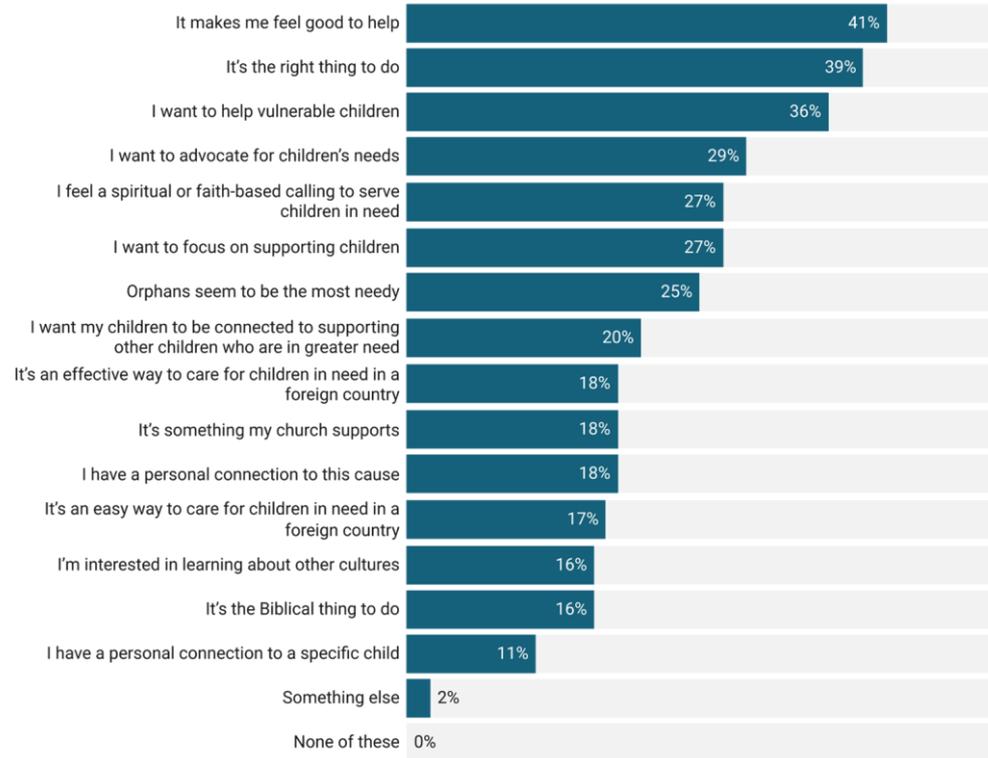
Select all that apply.



Why Do Residential Care Donors Give?

Using the following list, are any of the following reasons why you support orphanages, children's homes or other residential care programs for children?

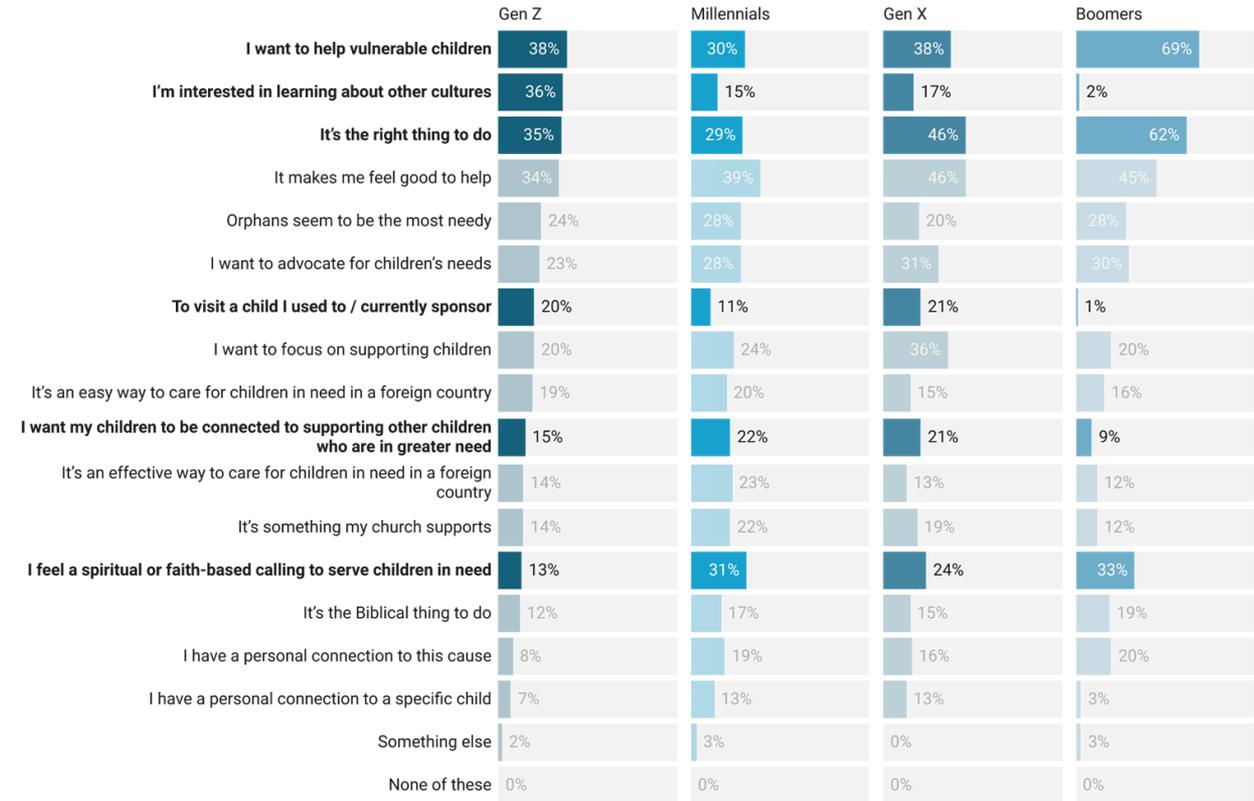
Select all that apply.



n=949 U.S. Self Identifying Christians Who Are Residential Care Donors, September - October 2025.

Residential Care Donors Report Being Driven by How it Makes Them Feel and Feeling That it's the Right Thing To Do.

Using the following list, are any of the following reasons why you support orphanages, children's homes or other residential care programs for children?



n=949 U.S. Self Identifying Christians Who Are Residential Care Donors, September - October 2025. | Bolded rows indicate statistical difference between generations

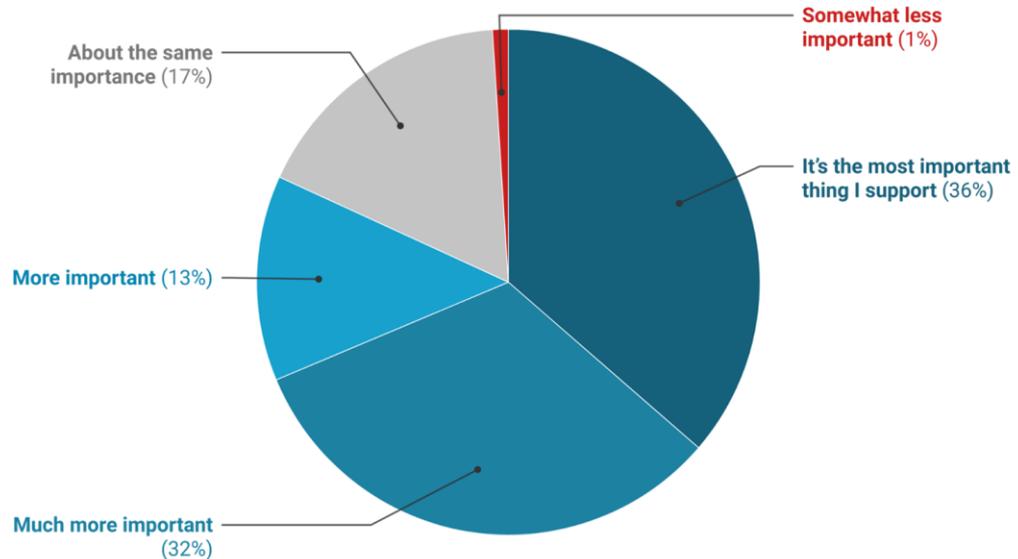
Motivations shift by generation:

Boomers anchor their giving in faith and personal connection, while Gen Z stands out for being driven by curiosity and cultural learning.

Giving to this cause is incredibly important to residential care donors.

One in three of them say “it’s the most important thing that I support” and an additional 45% say it’s more important or much more important than everything else they support.

Compared to other causes or organizations / ministries you may support (e.g., a church or non-profit), how important to you is your support of orphanage(s), children’s home(s) or other residential care program(s) for children?



n=949 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians Who Are Residential Care Supporters, September - October 2025. | 0% of Respondents Selected Options "Much less important" or "It's the only thing that I support."

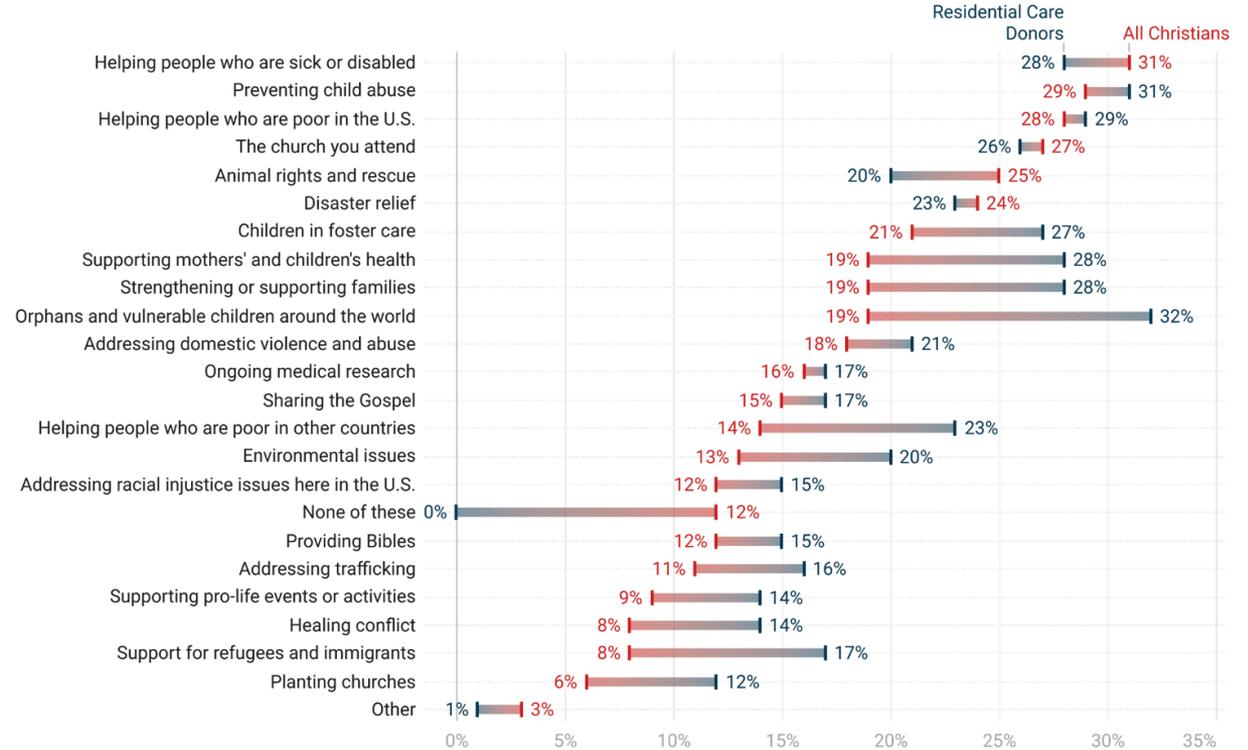
The desire to support orphans and vulnerable children is a defining trait of residential care donors.

When asked what they consider the most important cause to support financially, the most selected response among residential care donors is “orphans and vulnerable children around the world.”

Clearly reflected in the data, supporting families and children tends to be a differentiating characteristic for this donor.

Generally, when it comes to donating money, which of the following causes do you consider to be most important for you, personally, to support?

Select up to 7



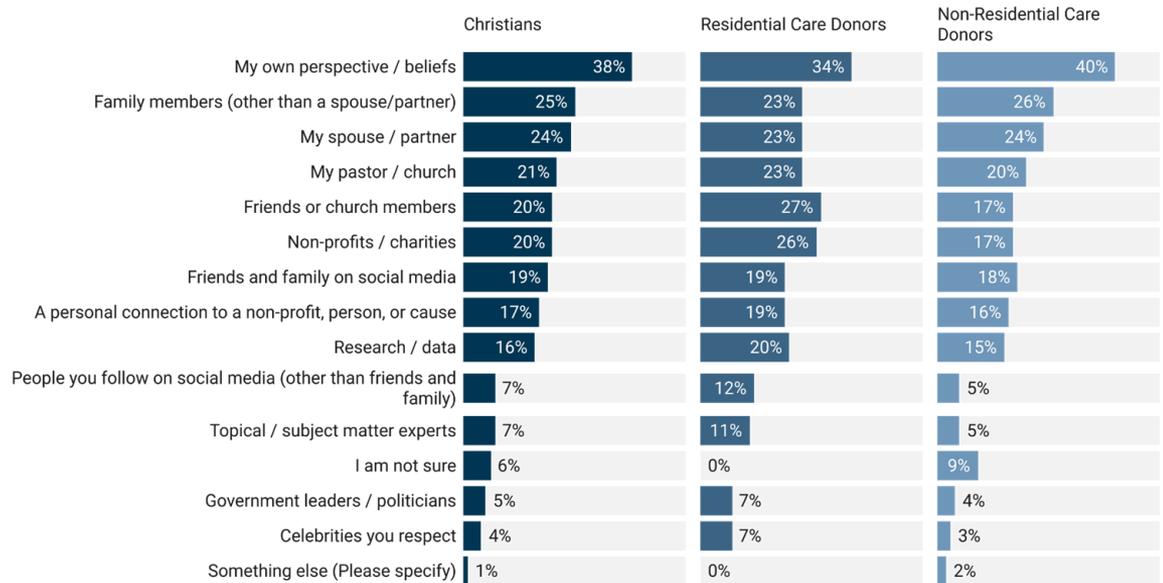
When it comes to deciding what to financially support, most Christians trust their own convictions first.

The top influences are: My own perspective/beliefs (38%), my spouse/partner (24%), family members (25%), friends or church members (20%)

Compared to the average Christian, residential care donors are slightly more influenced by “friends or church members” and “non-profits/charities.”

Consider how you, personally, decide what you will financially support. Between the following, whose recommendation or perspective is the most important to you?

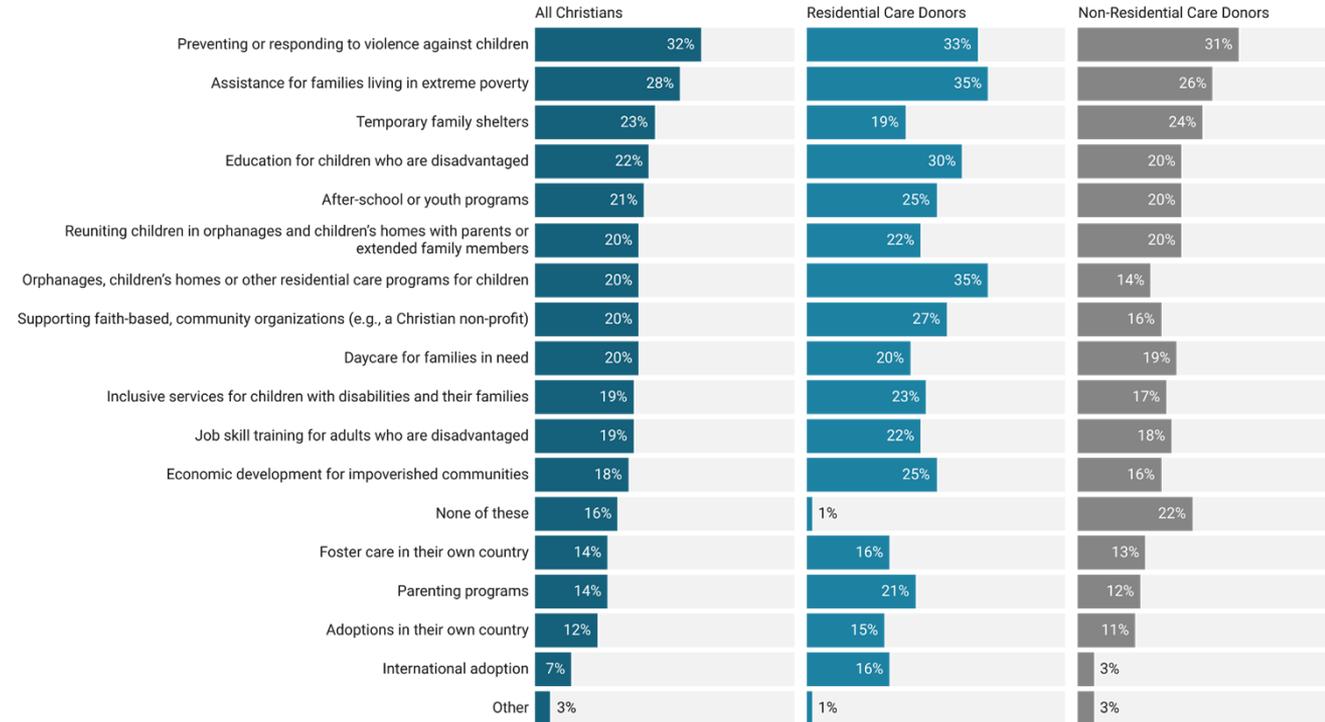
Select up to three



n=3,351 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians, September - October 2025.

Internationally, which of these initiatives would you be most interested in financially supporting when it comes to helping children?

Select up to 5.



n=3,351 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians, September - October 2025.

Christians' global giving priorities center on protection, poverty relief and education—while residential care donors stand apart in their support for institutional care.

Residential care donors are distinctly more inclined to fund residential and institutional programs (often at significantly higher levels than other Christians) suggesting existing giving relationships strongly shape future generosity priorities.

How Christians Would Help Children Internationally

Chart Sorted by Change Over Time

Internationally, which of these initiatives would you be most interested in financially supporting when it comes to helping children? Select up to 5.	2020	2025	Change Over Time
Daycare for families in need	15%	20%	5
After-school or youth programs	17%	21%	4
Foster care in their own country	10%	14%	4
Temporary family shelters	20%	23%	3
Adoptions in their own country	9%	12%	3
Preventing or responding to violence against children	30%	32%	2
Reuniting children in orphanages with parents or extended family members	19%	20%	1
International adoption	6%	7%	1
Job skill training for disadvantaged adults	19%	19%	0
Supporting faith-based, community organizations	21%	20%	-1
Economic development for impoverished communities	20%	18%	-2
Orphanages, children's homes or other residential care programs for children	23%	20%	-3
Education for disadvantaged children	26%	22%	-4
None of these	23%	16%	-7
Assistance for families living in extreme poverty	36%	28%	-8
Inclusive services for children with disabilities and their families	29%	19%	-10

n=3,000 Self-ID Christians, 2020. n=3,351 Self-ID Christians, 2025.

What are Christians more or less interested in financially supporting since 2020?

More interested:

“Daycare for families in need”

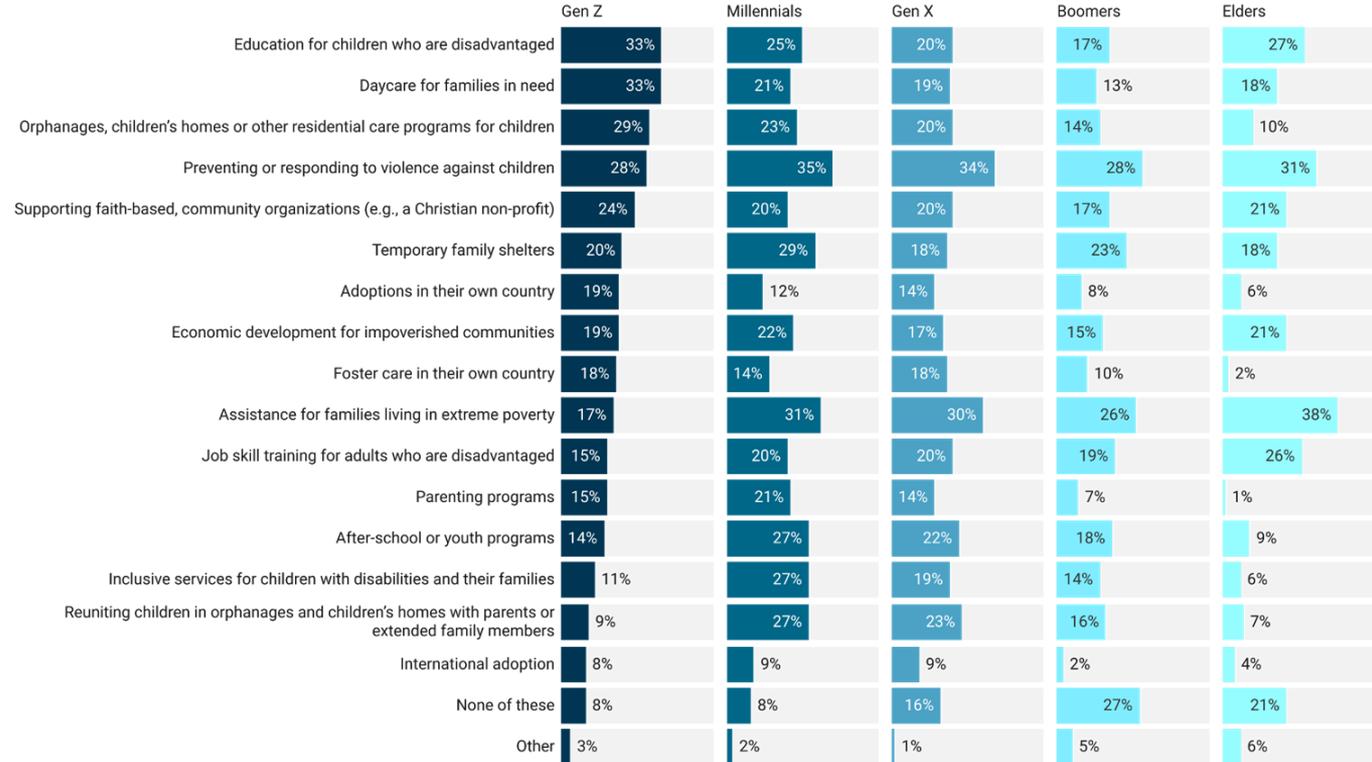
Less interested:

“Inclusive services for children with disabilities and their families”

“Assistance for families living in extreme poverty”

Internationally, which of these initiatives would you be most interested in financially supporting when it comes to helping children?

Select up to 5.



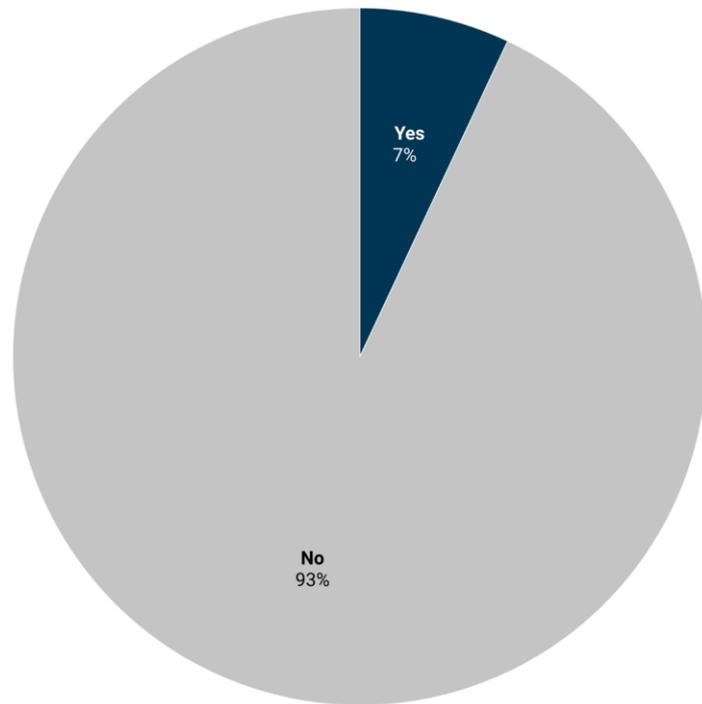
n=3,351 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians, September - October 2025.

Generational differences in supporting children internationally.

What Can We Learn From Those Who Have Stopped Financially Supporting Residential Care?

Beyond the last 3 years, have you ever financially supported orphanages, children's homes or other residential care programs for children?

Non Residential Care Donors



n=2,135 U.S. Self Identifying Christians Who Are Not Residential Care Donors, September - October 2025.

7% of Christians who do not currently financially residential care say they once did.

This represents just 4% of all Christians.

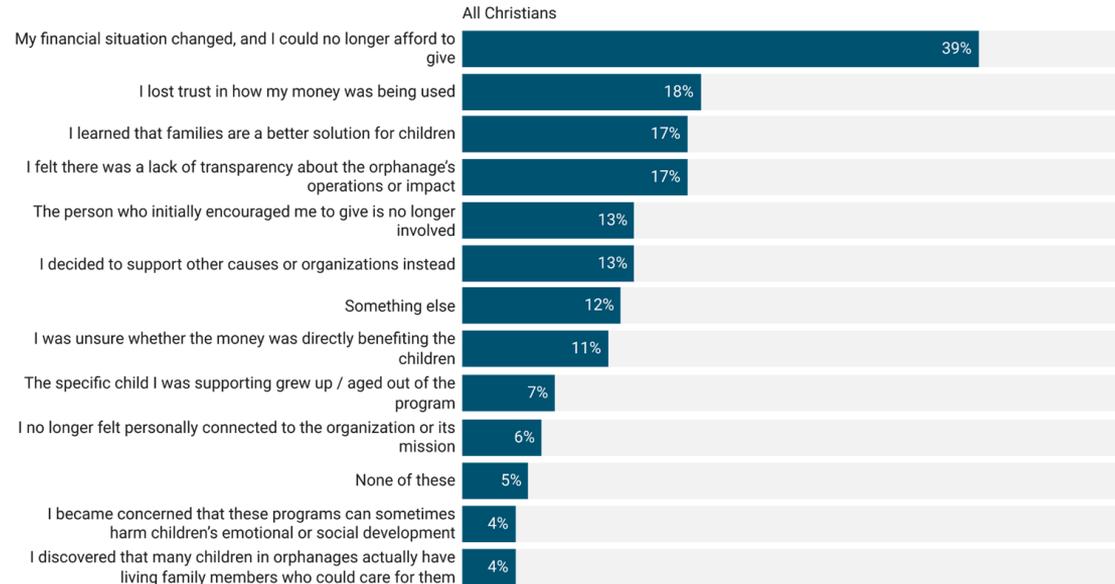
Why do Christians stop financially supporting residential care?

Typically the shift in giving is due to personal financial changes or distrust in institutions.

About one in six (17%) though say they “learned that families are a better solution for children.”

Now using the list below, are any of these reasons that you stopped supporting orphanages, children’s homes or other residential care programs for children?

Select all that apply.



n=154 U.S. Self Identifying Christians Who are Non-Residential Care Donors Who Have Ever Financially Supported an Orphanage, September - October 2025.

2 | Mission Trips

Participation in mission trips is correlated with residential care giving, especially among residential care donors, nearly half of whom have participated at some point.

One in three international mission trip participants has visited a residential care program, most often through church-organized efforts, reinforcing the church's central role in exposure and engagement. Future interest remains high, with a sizable portion of Christians open to visiting orphanages if participating in a mission trip.

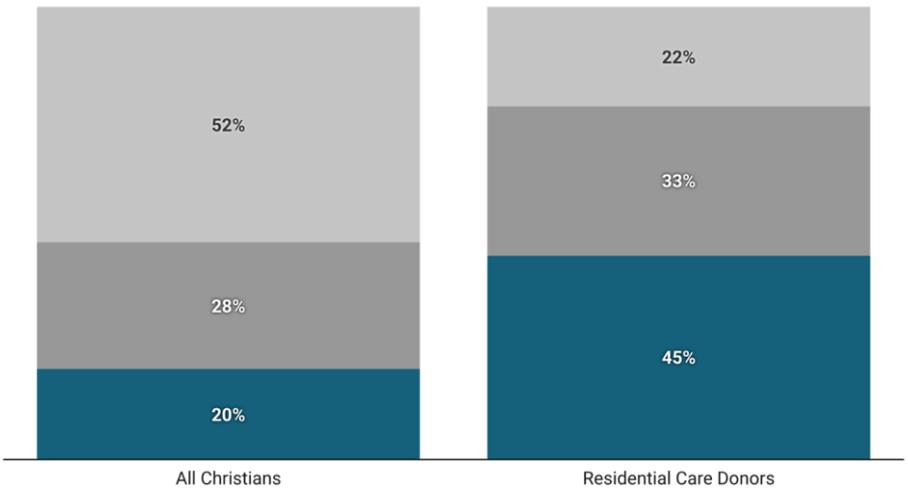
One in five Christians (20%) have gone on a mission trip at some point in their life.

This figure raises to 45% among residential care donors. Christians and residential care donors have experienced a mix of mission trip types, the most common being ones that happen “within the U.S., but outside my local community.”

When projected to the entire Christian population, this research finds that 36 million Christians have been on any kind of mission trip and 16 million Christians have been on an international mission trip.*

Have you ever been on a mission or service trip?

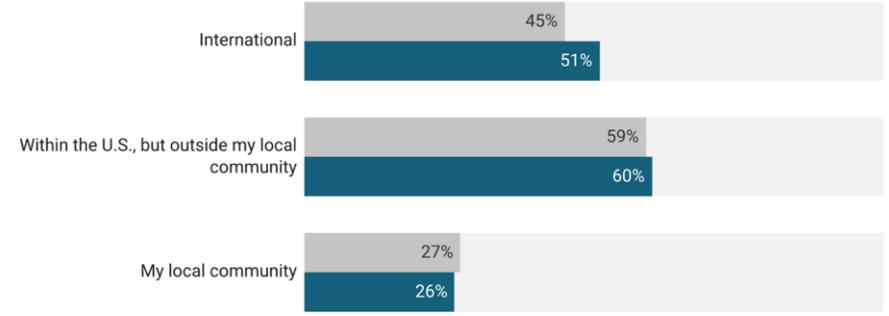
■ Yes ■ No, but I have considered it ■ No



What type of trip(s) have you been on?

Select all that apply

■ All Christians ■ Residential Care Donors



n=889 Christians Who Have Been on a Mission Trip, September - October 2025.

n=3,351 U.S. Self-Identifying Christians, September - October, 2025. | n=949 U.S. Self-Identifying Christians Who Are Residential Care Donors

*Assumes a population of 183.6 million Christians

One in three people who have been on an international mission trip have visited an orphanage, children's home or residential care program while on a mission trip.

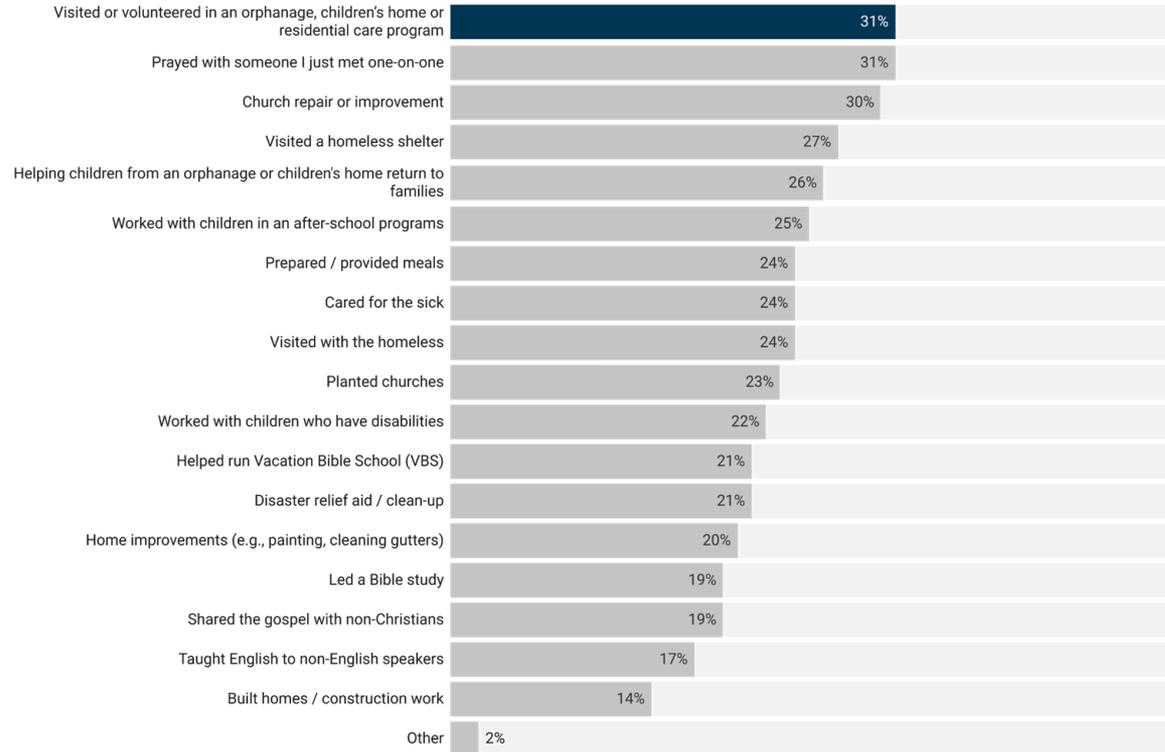
This projects to 5.1 million people having visited an orphanage, children's home or residential care program at some point in their life.*

*270 Million U.S. Adults, 68% identify as Christian (184 million), 20% have been on a mission trip (36.7 million), 45% of those trips were international (16.5 million), and 31% say they visited or volunteered in an orphanage, children's home or residential care program (5.1 million).

In the 2020 research this same projection was estimated to be 4 million people.

Which, if any, of the following activities have you participated in while on a mission trip?

Select all that apply.



n=304 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians Who Have Been On An International Mission Trip, September - October 2025.

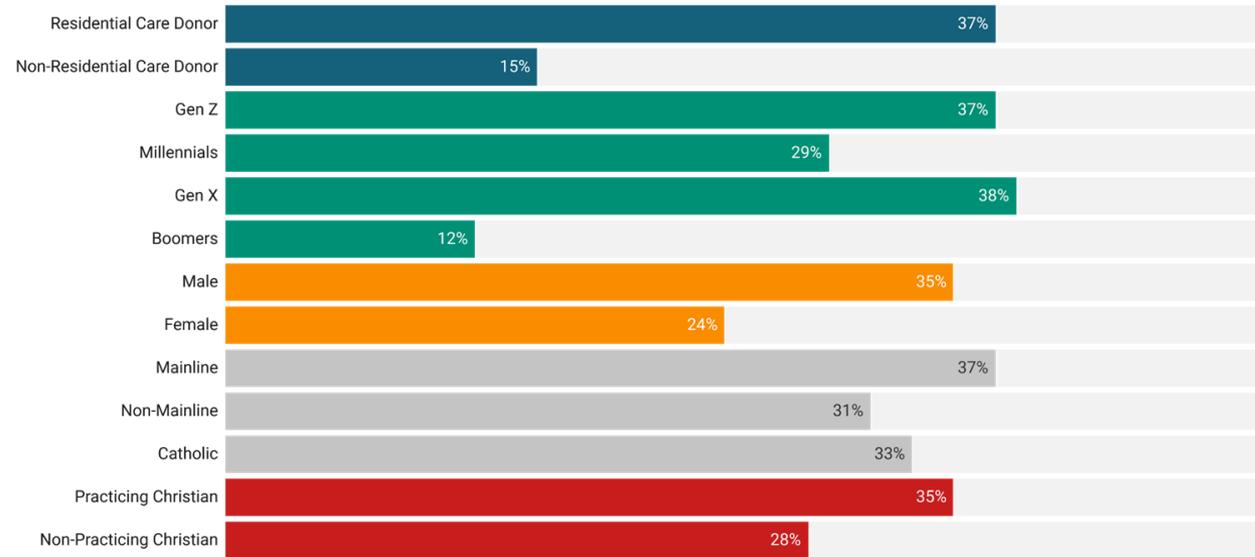
Who has visited residential care internationally?

One-in-three (31%) of Christians who have been on an international mission trip said they have visited an orphanage. Segments of this group that are more likely to have visited an orphanage include...

- Current Residential Care Donors
- Gen Z and Gen X
- Men
- Mainline protestants
- Practicing Christians

% of Segment Who Have Visited an Orphanage...

Visited or volunteered in an orphanage, children's home or residential care program



n=304 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians Who Have Been On An Internatioanl Mission Trip, September - October 2025.

Which, if any, of the following activities have you participated in while on a mission trip?

Select all that apply | Sorted by Change Over Time

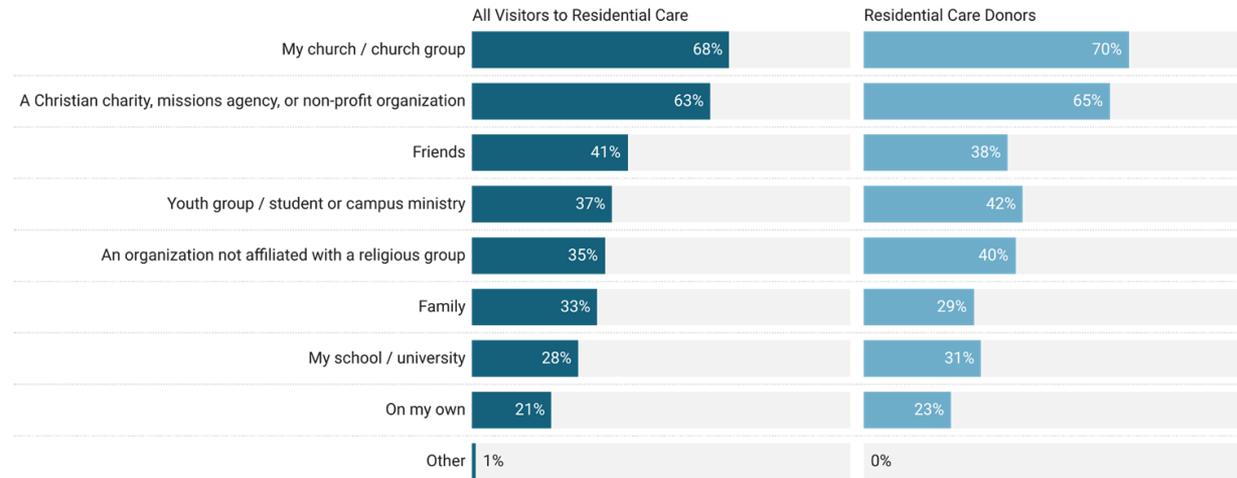
	2020	2025	Change Over Time ▾
Visited a homeless shelter	14%	27%	13
Planted churches	11%	23%	12
Prayed with someone I just met one-on-one	22%	31%	9
Visited with the homeless	16%	24%	8
Cared for the sick	16%	24%	8
Church repair or improvement	25%	30%	5
Taught English to non-English speakers	12%	17%	5
Worked with children in an after-school programs	22%	25%	3
Visited or volunteered in an orphanage, children's home or residential care program	30%	31%	1
Led a Bible study	19%	19%	0
Disaster relief aid / clean-up	22%	21%	-1
Helped run Vacation Bible School (VBS)	23%	21%	-2
Prepared / provided meals	30%	24%	-6
Worked with children who have disabilities	28%	22%	-6
Home improvements (e.g., painting, cleaning gutters)	30%	20%	-10
Shared the gospel with non-Christians	33%	19%	-14
Built homes / construction work	28%	14%	-14
Other	18%	2%	-16

n=103 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians Who Have Been On An International Mission Trip, 2020. | n=304 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians Who Have Been On An International Mission Trip, September - October 2025.

Year-Over-Year Comparisons: International Mission Trip Activities

With whom have you gone on a mission or service trip when you have visited an orphanage, children's home or residential care program?

Select all that apply.



n=681 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians Who Have Been On A Mission Trip, September - October 2025.

Seven in ten mission travelers say their trip was organized by their church or church group (68%), and another two-thirds went through a Christian charity or missions agency (63%).

Top 10 Displayed

	% Of Christians on International Mission Trips
Mexico	13%
Colombia	8%
Peru	8%
Somalia	7%
Brazil	6%
Argentina	6%
Haiti	5%
The Bahamas	5%
Dominican Republic	5%
Chile	5%

*"Where did you visit an orphanage, children's home or residential care program?"
Next 5 countries named: Nepal, Guatemala, Jamaica, Venezuela, Honduras*

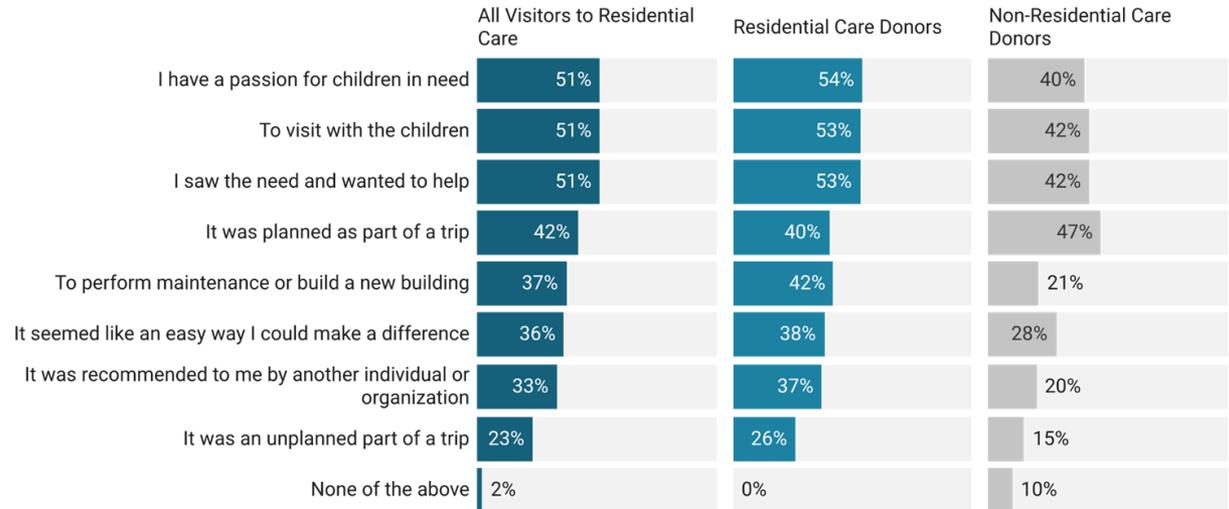
Where did you visit an orphanage, children's home or residential care program?

Note: Please interpret this data conservatively and with caution due to low sample size and limitations of self-reporting survey research.

Why Visit an Orphanage?

What was the reason you decided to visit an orphanage, children's home or other residential care program for children on your mission trip?

Select all that apply.



n=155 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians Who Have Been On A Trip To Residential Care, September - October 2025.

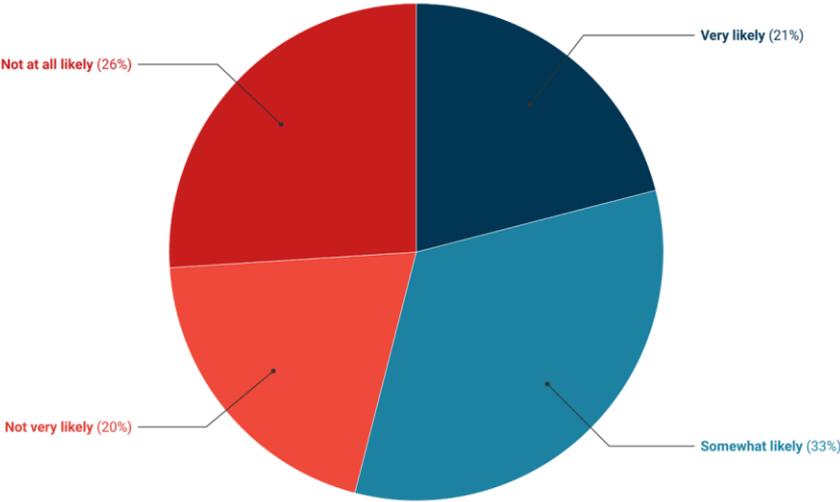
Why Visit an Orphanage?

The top three motivations — a passion for children in need (51%), wanting to visit with children (51%), and seeing a need and wanting to help (51%).

Future Mission Trips

Most Christians would participate in a mission trip, one-third of them would visit an orphanage.

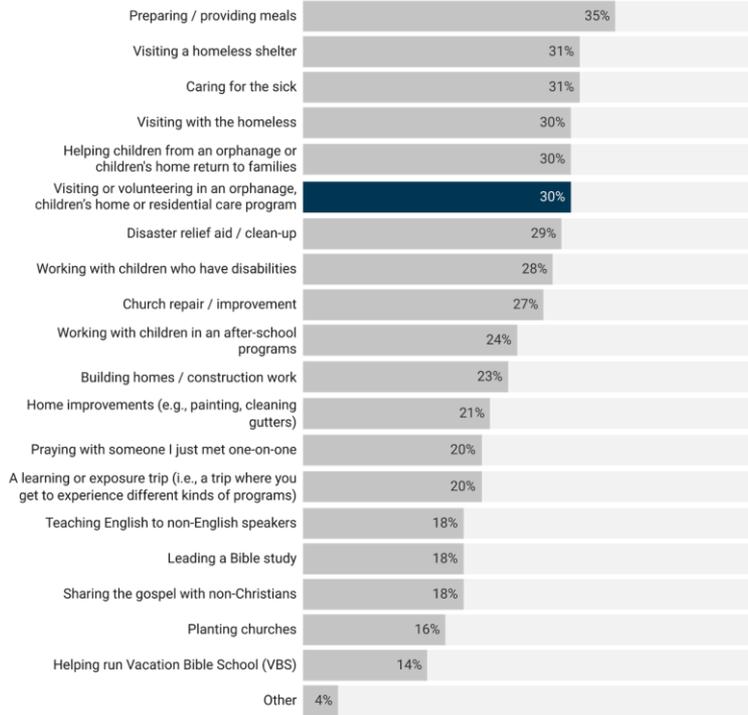
How likely are you to participate in a mission trip in the future?



n=3,351 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians, September - October 2025.

In the future which, if any, of the following activities might you be interested in participating in during a mission trip?

Select all that apply.



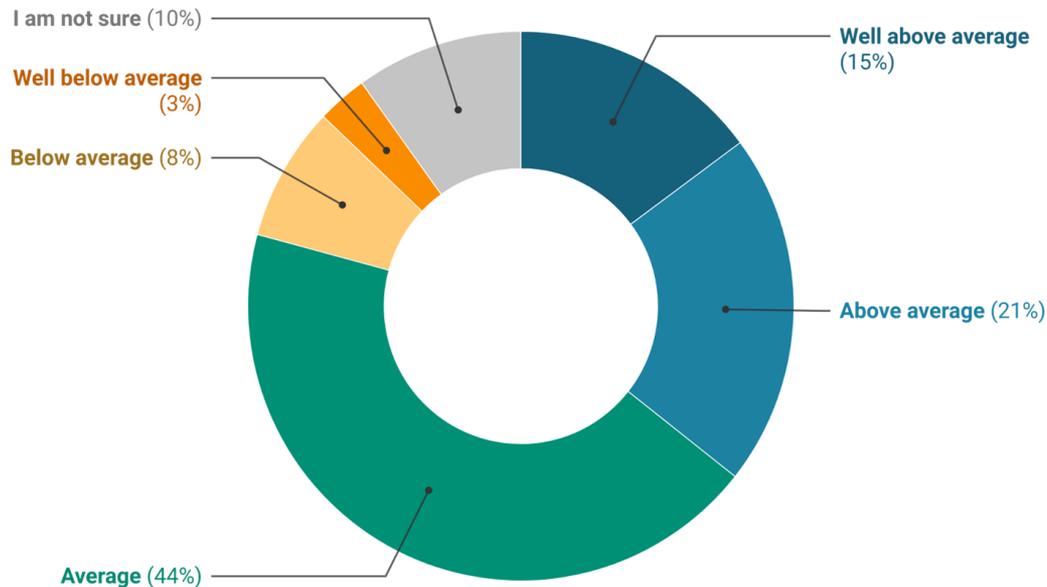
n=1,811 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians Who Are Likely To Go On A Mission Trip In The Future, September - October 2025.

3 | Awareness and Beliefs

Most Christians express confidence in their understanding of residential care, though this confidence often exceeds factual accuracy—particularly around poverty and systemic drivers of child separation.

Awareness of poverty as a root cause has grown substantially since 2020, yet belief in collective responsibility and solvability has somewhat declined. This results in a tension where family-based care is strongly affirmed in principle, while orphanages are still widely viewed as necessary and positive in practice.

Today, how would you rate your understanding of the reasons why children are placed into orphanages, children's homes or residential care programs?

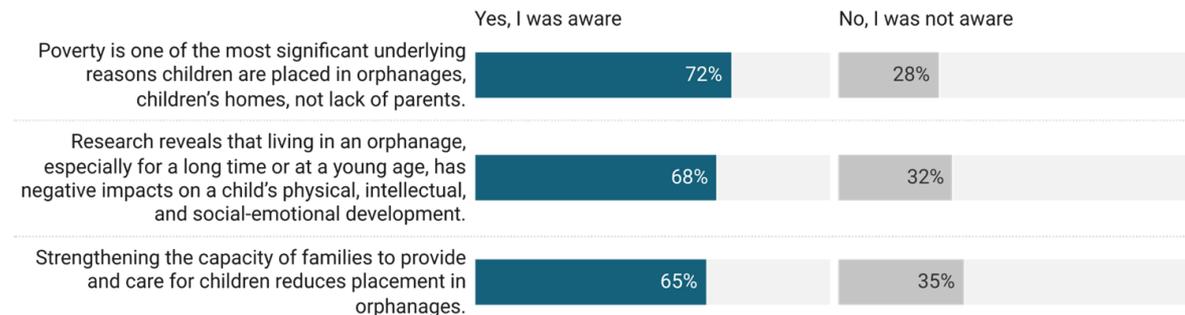


n=3,351 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians, September - October 2025.

The majority of Christians believe they have an average or higher understanding of why children are placed into residential care.

Christians self-report a high amount of knowledge about orphans and orphanages.

Before participating in this survey, were you aware of the following information?

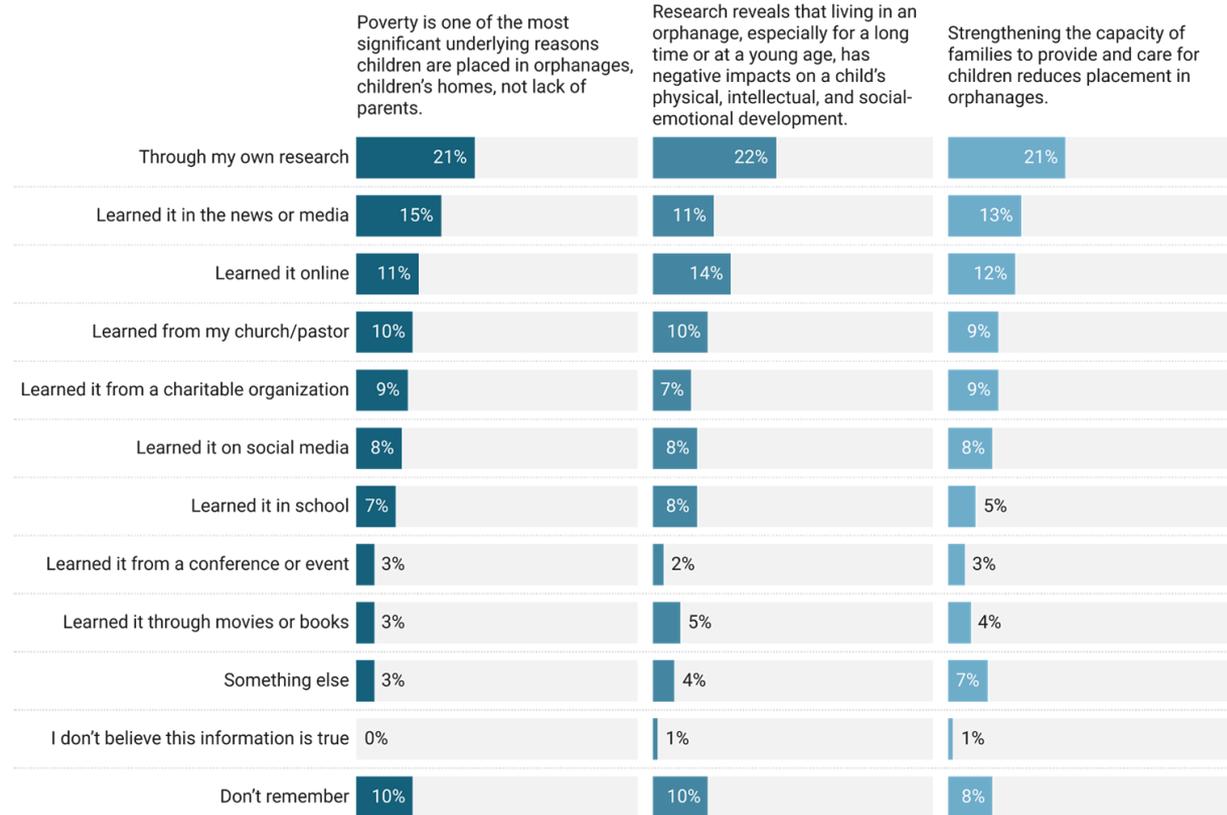


n=3,351 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians, September - October 2025.

Note: It's not necessarily true that respondents knew these facts. It's only true that they said that they do.

Where Did You Learn That...

% Among Those Aware of Given Fact



Column 1: n=2,407, Column 2: n=2,284, Column 3: n=2,179 Self-ID Christians Who State Awareness of This Fact

Where did Christians learn this?

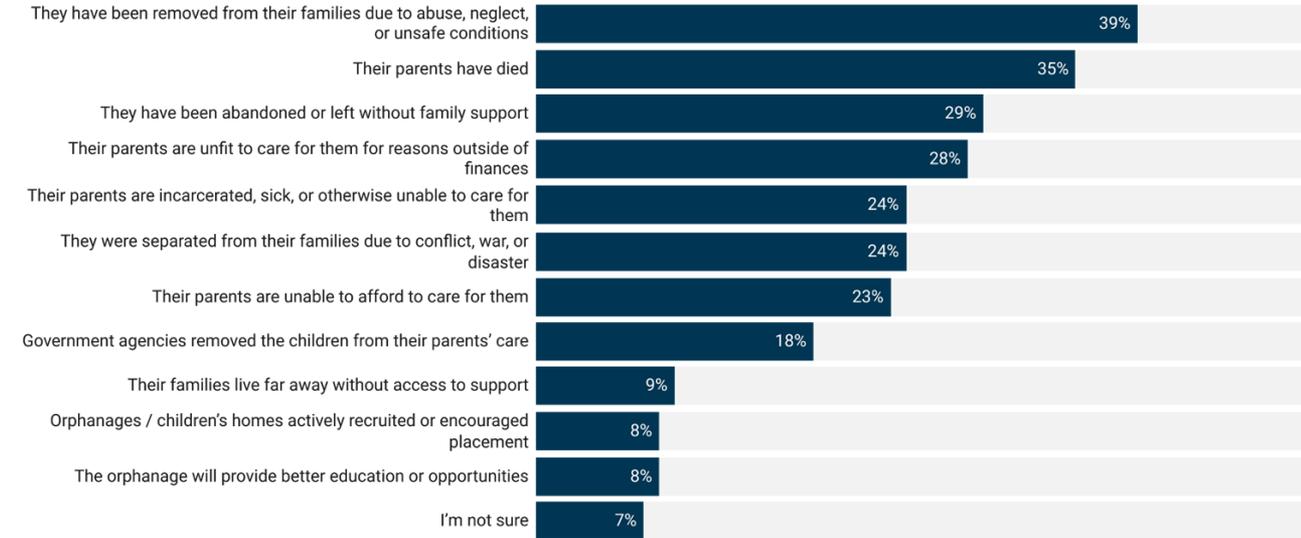
They typically cite their own research, media or online environments.

Most Christians believe they understand that children enter orphanages because of abuse, neglect, or the death of parents—reasons tied to tragedy and protection.

Far fewer recognize poverty (23%) or abandonment or the lack of family support (29%).

To your knowledge, which of the following are the most common reasons why children are placed in orphanages, children's homes or residential care programs around the world?

Select up to three.



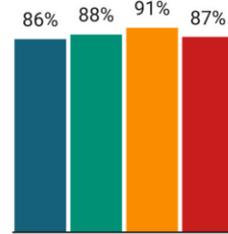
n=3,351 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians, September - October 2025.

Beliefs About Responsibilities & Roles

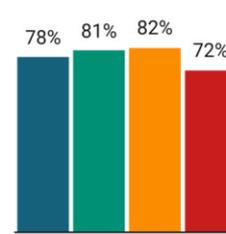
% Agree Strongly + Agree Somewhat

■ Gen Z ■ Millennials ■ Gen X ■ Boomers

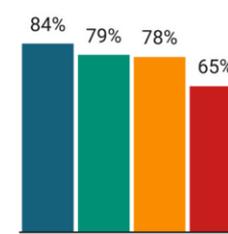
National governments should take more responsibility to see that children in their own countries are cared for in families.



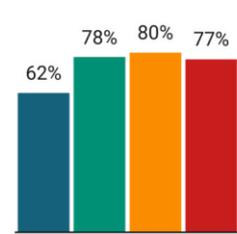
Christians have a responsibility to help care for orphans and vulnerable children around the world.



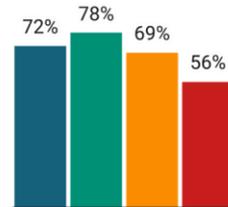
The U.S. government should take more responsibility to see that children around the world are cared for in families.



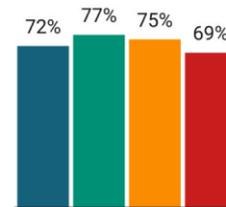
The needs of children in the U.S. should be prioritized over the needs of children around the world.



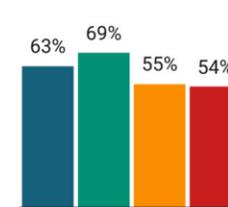
I have a personal responsibility to help ensure children in need around the world are cared for in families.



Christians and Christian churches in the U.S. should take more responsibility to see that children around the world are cared for in families.



Reforming how orphans are cared for around the world is not the responsibility of U.S. Christians.



Christians strongly support family-based care for children, with national government responsibility rated highest—while personal responsibility and global church responsibility show more generational drop-off.

Beliefs About Families and Orphanages

% Agree Strongly + Agree Somewhat

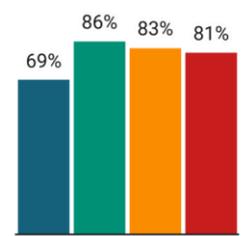
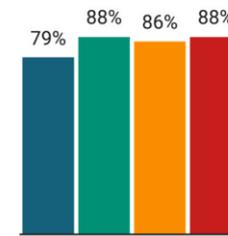
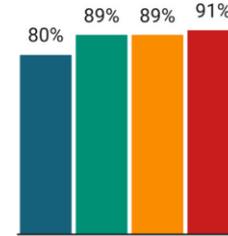
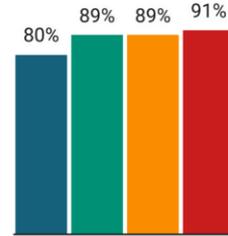
■ Gen Z ■ Millennials ■ Gen X ■ Boomers

Children's well-being and development are best supported in families.

Healthy and stable family environments are essential for a child's healthy development.

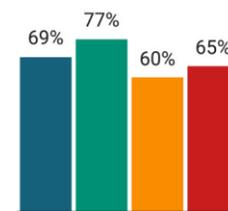
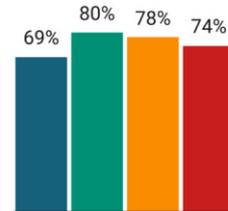
Supporting families is the most effective solution to orphanages and children's homes.

Orphanages, children's homes or residential care programs for children provide essential care for the most in need.



Orphanages, children's homes or residential care programs for children provide a positive place for children.

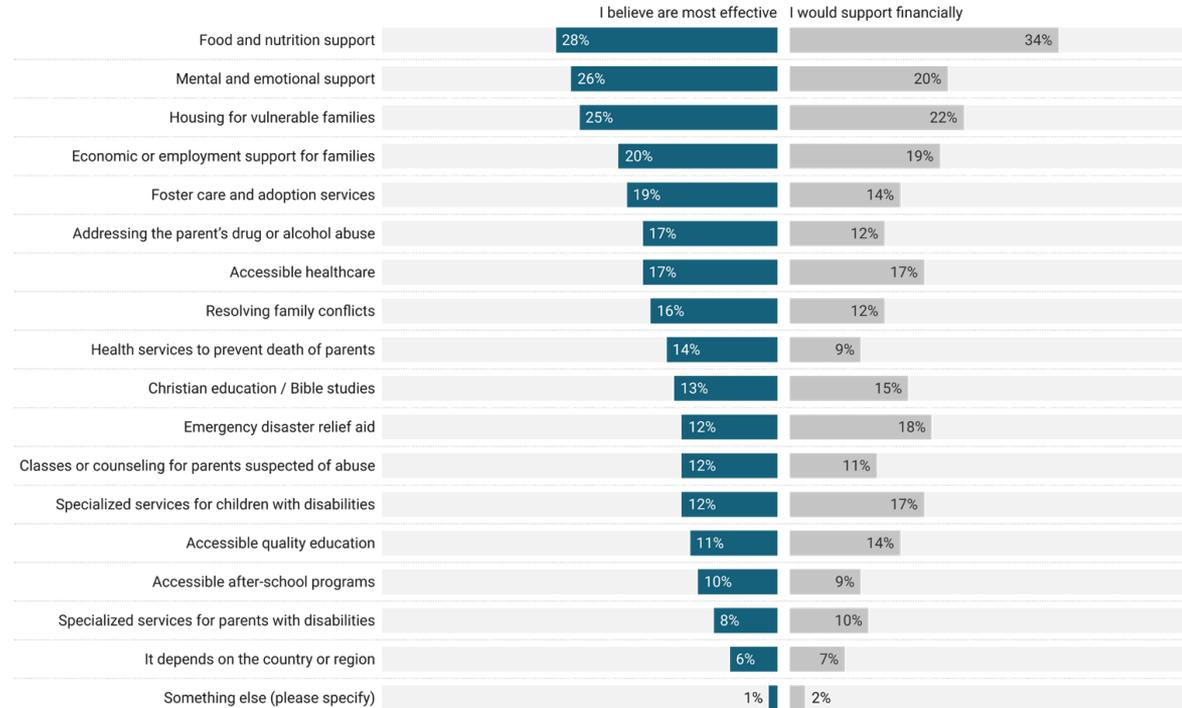
Orphanages, children's homes and residential care programs for children are the only option for the most in need.



n=3,351 Self-ID Christians, 2025.

Older Christians tend to have slightly more confidence in the vitality of family, while younger generations – especially millennials – tend to have a more positive view of orphanages.

Below is a list of services provided in communities or for families to help prevent children from being placed in orphanages, children's homes, or residential care programs for children. Looking at this list, which 3...



n=3,351 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians, September - October 2025.

“Most children in orphanages, children’s homes or residential care programs are not orphans; about 80 percent of children in these institutions worldwide have at least one living parent. Children are placed in orphanages, children’s homes and residential care programs for many different reasons. Knowing this...”

1. Which 3 do you believe are the most effective?
2. Which 3 would you be most likely to support financially?

Christians believe that food and nutrition support, mental/emotional support and housing top are the most effective types of relief. These also tend to be what they are most interested in supporting financially.

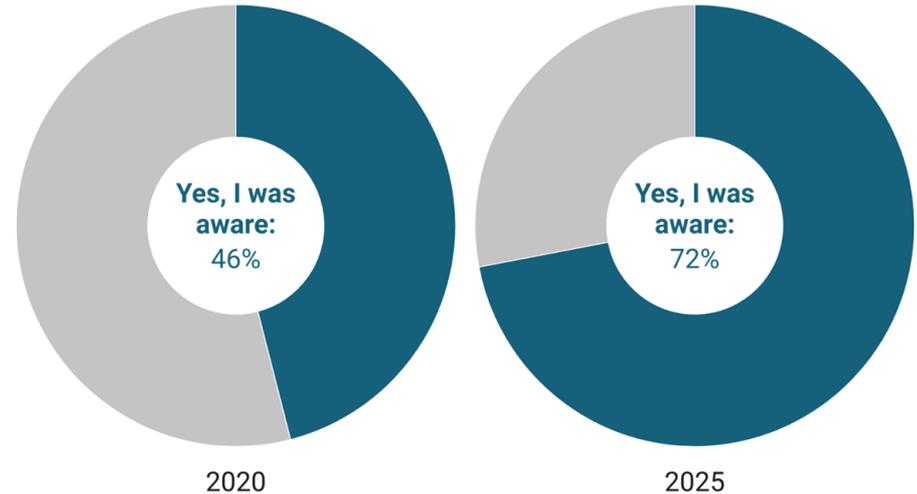
How Has Knowledge Shifted Over Time?

Since 2020, awareness of poverty as a significant reason why children are placed in residential care has increased by 26 percentage points.

That's *51 million* more Christians.

Poverty is one of the most significant underlying reasons children are placed in orphanages, children's homes, not lack of parents. Before participating in this survey, were you aware of this information?

■ Yes, I was aware
■ No, I was not aware



n=3,000 Self-ID Christians, 2020. n=3,351 Self-ID Christians, 2025.

Poverty is one of the most significant underlying reasons children are placed in orphanages, children's homes, not lack of parents. Before participating in this survey, were you aware of this information?

Chart Sorted by Change Over Time

Yes I Was Aware	2020	2025	Change Over Time
Denomination: Mainline	46%	78%	32
Denomination: Non-Mainline	47%	76%	29
Generation: Gen Z and Millennials	54%	83%	29
Faith Engagement: Non Practicing Christian	44%	72%	28
Gender: Female	45%	72%	27
Generation: Gen X	47%	74%	27
All Christians	46%	72%	26
Does not Give to Residential Care	41%	66%	25
Gender: Male	48%	72%	24
Denomination: Catholic	45%	67%	22
Faith Engagement: Practicing Christians	51%	72%	21
Gives to Residential Care	70%	86%	16
Generation: Boomers and Elders	41%	55%	14

n=3,000 Self-ID Christians, 2020. n=3,351 Self-ID Christians, 2025.

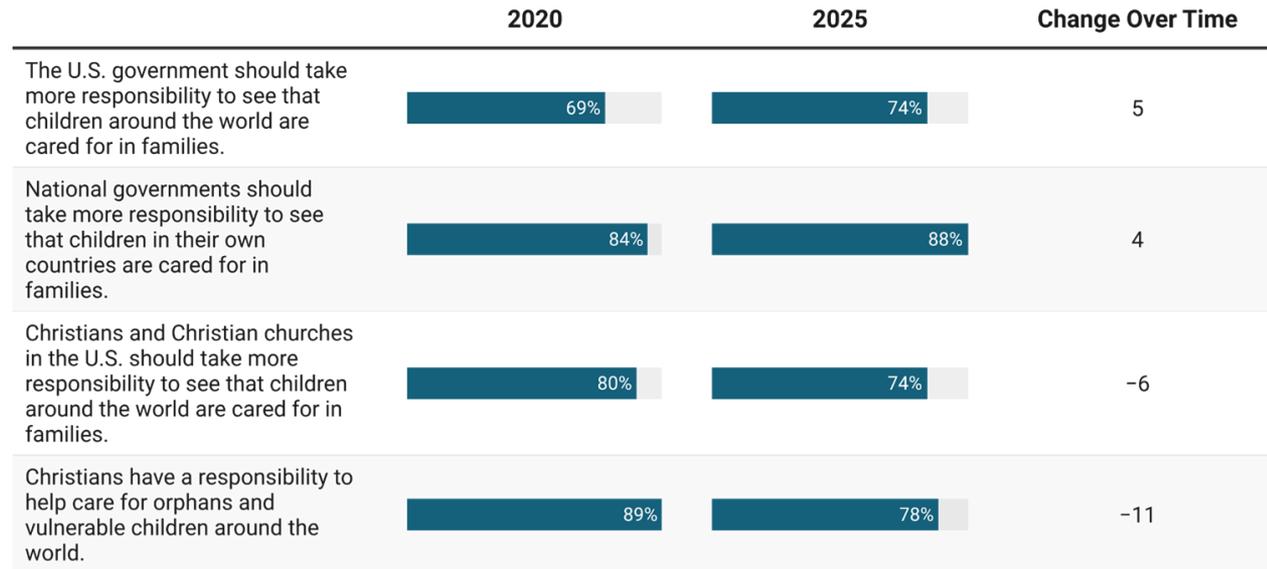
Who has become more aware?

Mainline protestants saw the largest shift, followed by non-mainline protestants, Gen Z/Millennials and Non-practicing Christians.

How Have Beliefs Regarding Residential and Family Care Shifted?

Christians' Shifting Beliefs - Responsibility and Role

Agree strongly + Agree somewhat | Chart is sorted by change over time



n=3,000 Self-ID Christians, 2020. n=3,351 Self-ID Christians, 2025.

What responsibility and role beliefs have shifted since 2020?

The idea that Christians have a responsibility to help care for orphans has decreased significantly, while believing that the U.S. government should take more responsibility has slightly risen.

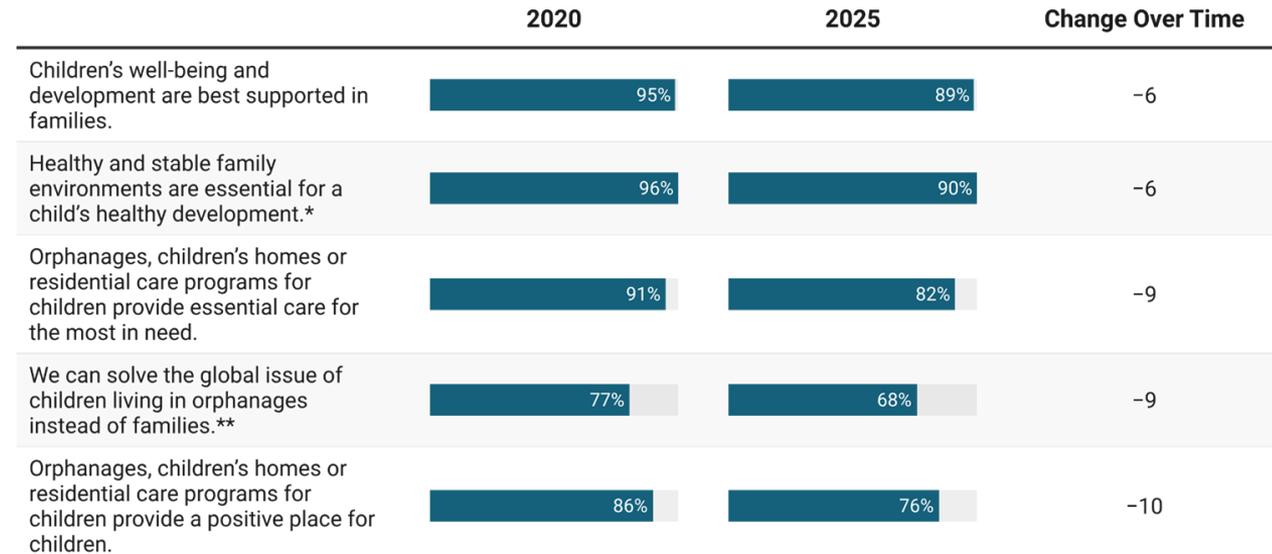
What beliefs regarding orphanages and families have changed?

Since 2020 slightly fewer Christians' perception that orphanages are essential and positive have decreased.

However they also express less confidence in the ability to solve the issue of orphanages and in are slightly less agreement about the vitality of family.

Christians' Shifting Beliefs - Orphanages and Families

Agree strongly + Agree somewhat | Chart is sorted by change over time



n=3,000 Self-ID Christians, 2020. n=3,351 Self-ID Christians, 2025. | * In 2020 the statement did not include "Healthy." | ** In 2020 the statement started "If more people cared we could solve..."

How Generations' Beliefs Have Shifted | *Change <, > or = +/- 5 are statistically insignificant*

% who agree strongly + somewhat with each statement		Change Over Time			2025			2020		
		Gen Z and Millennials	Gen X	Boomers and Elders	Gen Z and Millennials	Gen X	Boomers and Elders	Gen Z and Millennials	Gen X	Boomers and Elders
Family	Children's well-being and development are best supported in families.	-5%	-7%	-5%	87%	89%	91%	92%	96%	96%
	Healthy and stable family environments are essential for a child's healthy development.	-5%	-4%	-4%	87%	92%	94%	92%	96%	98%
Orphanages	Orphanages, children's homes or residential care programs for children provide essential care for the most in need.	-9%	-7%	-9%	82%	83%	83%	91%	90%	92%
	Orphanages, children's homes or residential care programs for children provide a positive place for children.	-9%	-9%	-13%	78%	77%	73%	87%	86%	86%
	We can solve the global issue of children living in orphanages instead of families.	-3%	-14%	-15%	76%	66%	60%	79%	80%	75%
Responsibilities	National governments should take more responsibility to see that children in their own countries are cared for in families.	3%	5%	5%	87%	90%	88%	84%	85%	83%
	Christians have a responsibility to help care for orphans and vulnerable children around the world.	-10%	-5%	-16%	80%	83%	72%	90%	88%	88%
	The U.S. government should take more responsibility to see that children around the world are cared for in families.	3%	5%	2%	80%	78%	63%	77%	73%	61%
	Christians and Christian churches in the U.S. should take more responsibility to see that children around the world are cared for in families.	-1%	-6%	-10%	77%	75%	70%	78%	81%	80%

4 | Messaging

Christians show strong interest in learning more, especially those already engaged, with digital platforms and churches serving as primary channels.

Messages that center around family permanence, emotional imagination, and practical transitions away from orphanage models resonate most across segments. Effective messaging bridges compassion with clarity—affirming donors' good intentions while gently reframing what truly serves children long-term.

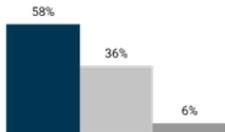
The next several pages display the same information in different views, looking at all Christians and numerous segmentations/key demographic.

Most Christians Are Interested in Learning More

Messaging

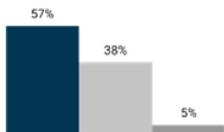
More interested No difference Less interested

Strengthening the capacity of families to provide and care for children prevents separation of children from their families, and reduces placement in orphanages.



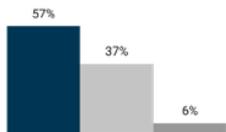
Research reveals that living in an orphanage, especially for a long time or at a young age, has negative impacts on a child's physical, intellectual, and social-emotional development.

Even the best orphanages struggle to meet children's needs.



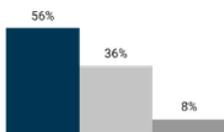
Children raised in orphanages tend to struggle into adulthood more than children raised in families.

Imagine your child or a special child in your life. What if you or the child's parents were not available to care for him or her? What kind of care would you desire?



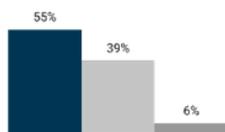
Organizations around the world are partnering with local and national governments to advocate for family care policies, implement kinship care, foster care, and adoption programs, and help orphanages transition to family care models.

Family is for a lifetime. You never "age out" of a family like you can age out of an orphanage.



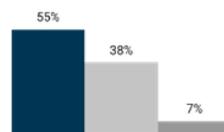
A study found, for every three months in an orphanage, a young child loses one month of development.

While residential care facilities, like orphanages and children's homes, can provide for physical needs like food, water, and shelter, they can't provide all of the developmental, social, and emotional support a child requires to thrive long-term.



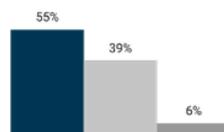
Adults who grew up in orphanages commonly say what they really wanted was a family.

As Christians, we have an important role to play in seeing children cared for in safe, loving families.



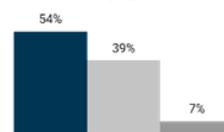
It's important to recognize that high quality residential care may be temporarily needed for some children under special circumstances. In these cases, every effort should be made to keep placement short-term and to support the transition to family care through reunification, kinship care (care with relatives or close family friends), foster care, or adoption.

We need to change the focus from visiting and funding orphanages to providing support to vulnerable families.

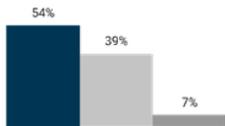


Transitioning away from orphanages and placing children in families is achievable.

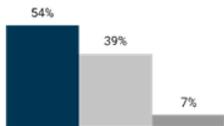
God created family as told in the first chapters of Genesis and like other things in creation, family represents God's good intentions for the world. In Psalm 68:6, we read "God sets the lonely in families," recognizing God's intention is for families to be the source of belonging.



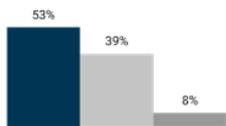
U.S. Christians are major supporters of orphanages and other forms of residential care for vulnerable children around the world.



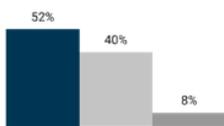
It's estimated that 5.4 million children worldwide are living in orphanages.



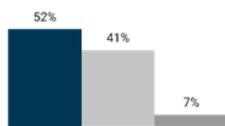
80% of children living in an orphanage have at least one living parent. That's 4 out of 5.



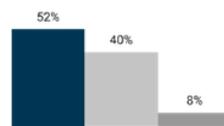
Poverty -- not the loss of parents -- is often the underlying reason why children are placed in orphanages.



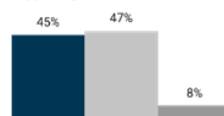
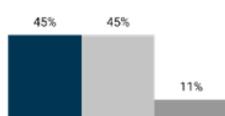
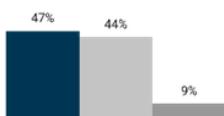
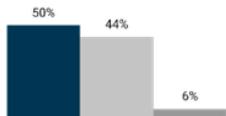
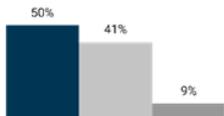
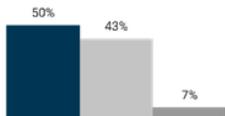
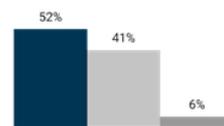
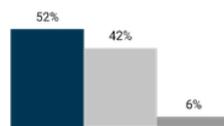
The cost of supporting a child in an orphanage is 5-10X higher than supporting a child in a family.



We don't have an orphan crisis, we have an orphanage crisis.



While the U.S. has largely moved away from an orphanage model of care for children, we are still supporting them abroad.



Most Christians Are Interested in Learning More | Segmented

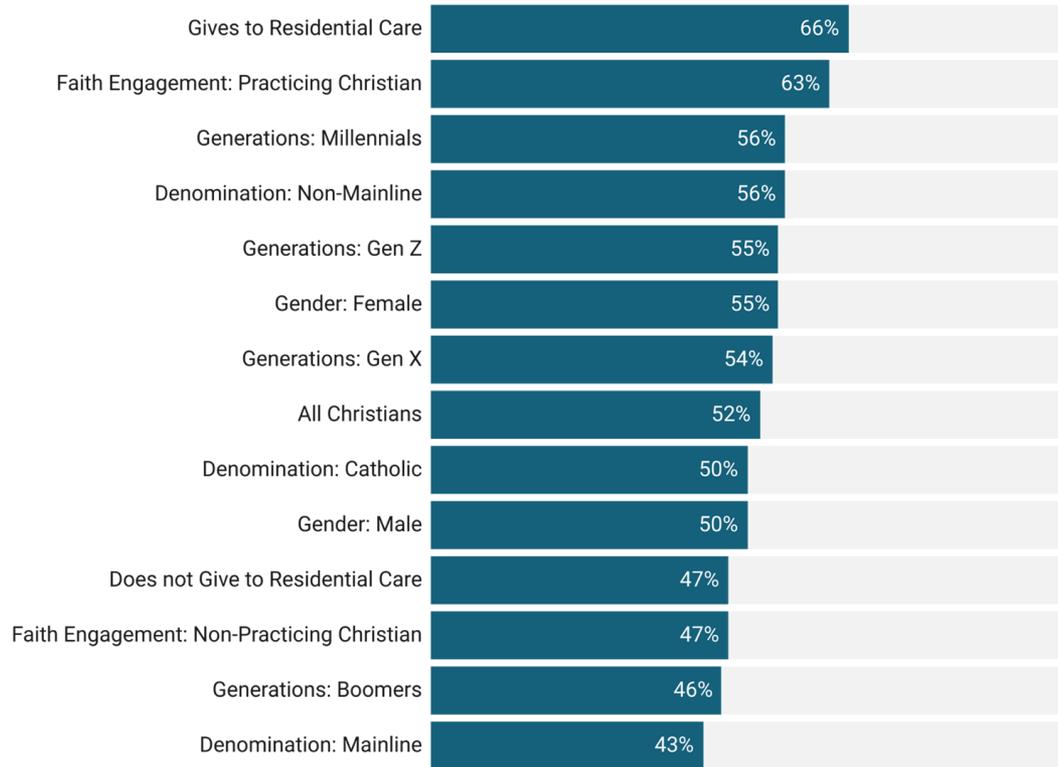


	Total	Gives to Residential Care	Does not Give to Residential Care	Male	Female	Gen Z	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Practicing Christian	Non-Practicing Christian	Mainline	Non-Mainline	Catholic
Imagine your child or a special child in your life. What if you or the child's parents were not available to care for him or her? What kind of care would you desire?	57%	71%	52%	55%	60%	49%	61%	58%	55%	67%	52%	41%	59%	60%
Strengthening the capacity of families to provide and care for children prevents separation of children from their families, and reduces placement in orphanages.	58%	74%	52%	56%	60%	56%	65%	57%	52%	67%	53%	46%	61%	57%
Family is for a lifetime. You never "age out" of a family like you can age out of an orphanage.	56%	65%	53%	58%	54%	67%	57%	59%	49%	64%	52%	40%	58%	55%
Children raised in orphanages tend to struggle into adulthood more than children raised in families.	54%	66%	50%	51%	57%	56%	54%	58%	49%	61%	51%	43%	54%	55%
Adults who grew up in orphanages commonly say what they really wanted was a family.	52%	65%	47%	50%	54%	50%	54%	57%	46%	63%	46%	38%	50%	55%
While residential care facilities, like orphanages and children's homes, can provide for physical needs like food, water, and shelter, they can't provide all of the developmental, social, and emotional support a child requires to thrive long-term.	56%	65%	50%	52%	57%	61%	54%	58%	48%	60%	52%	39%	59%	54%
Research reveals that living in an orphanage, especially for a long time or at a young age, has negative impacts on a child's physical, intellectual, and social-emotional development.	54%	69%	48%	49%	58%	61%	53%	55%	49%	64%	48%	49%	55%	53%
Even the best orphanages struggle to meet children's needs.	57%	67%	53%	54%	60%	61%	60%	59%	52%	64%	53%	52%	61%	52%
We need to change the focus from visiting and funding orphanages to providing support to vulnerable families.	55%	63%	51%	51%	58%	66%	53%	57%	50%	61%	51%	44%	59%	52%
As Christians, we have an important role to play in seeing children cared for in safe, loving families.	56%	62%	52%	53%	57%	50%	59%	60%	48%	66%	48%	41%	62%	51%
Transitioning away from orphanages and placing children in families is achievable.	52%	66%	47%	47%	57%	48%	55%	53%	48%	64%	45%	44%	53%	51%
It's important to recognize that high quality residential care may be temporarily needed for some children under special circumstances. In these cases, every effort should be made to keep placement short-term and to support the transition to family care through reunification, kinship care (care with relatives or close family friends), foster care, or adoption.	52%	68%	45%	51%	53%	57%	55%	55%	43%	61%	47%	43%	53%	50%
A study found, for every three months in an orphanage, a young child loses one month of development	52%	65%	46%	48%	55%	53%	55%	50%	49%	62%	46%	45%	54%	50%
God created family as told in the first chapters of Genesis and like other things in creation, family represents God's good intentions for the world. In Psalm 68:6, we read "God sets the lonely in families," recognizing God's intention is for families to be the source of belonging.	54%	66%	49%	51%	56%	55%	55%	54%	53%	71%	44%	49%	58%	49%
It's estimated that 5.4 million children worldwide are living in orphanages.	50%	65%	43%	46%	53%	57%	54%	51%	42%	60%	43%	36%	55%	48%
80% of children living in an orphanage have at least one living parent. That's 4 out of 5.	50%	62%	45%	48%	51%	43%	56%	53%	42%	60%	44%	32%	53%	48%
Poverty – not the loss of parents – is often the underlying reason why children are placed in orphanages.	50%	65%	44%	46%	54%	61%	51%	48%	46%	62%	44%	45%	54%	48%
U.S. Christians are major supporters of orphanages and other forms of residential care for vulnerable children around the world.	52%	71%	45%	53%	52%	51%	65%	48%	43%	66%	45%	54%	53%	47%
Organizations around the world are partnering with local and national governments to advocate for family care policies, implement kinship care, foster care, and adoption programs, and help orphanages transition to family care models.	53%	71%	46%	51%	56%	59%	61%	49%	47%	66%	46%	41%	63%	47%
The cost of supporting a child in an orphanage is 5-10X higher than supporting a child in a family.	47%	65%	40%	46%	48%	49%	55%	48%	35%	56%	42%	44%	51%	46%
We don't have an orphan crisis, we have an orphanage crisis.	45%	58%	39%	42%	47%	48%	48%	47%	37%	54%	40%	35%	54%	41%
While the U.S. has largely moved away from an orphanage model of care for children, we are still supporting them abroad.	45%	64%	38%	44%	46%	59%	52%	45%	33%	56%	39%	48%	46%	40%

n=3,351 Self-ID Christians, 2025.

Average Interest in Tested Messaging

Average % of Group "More Interested" in Messages Shown



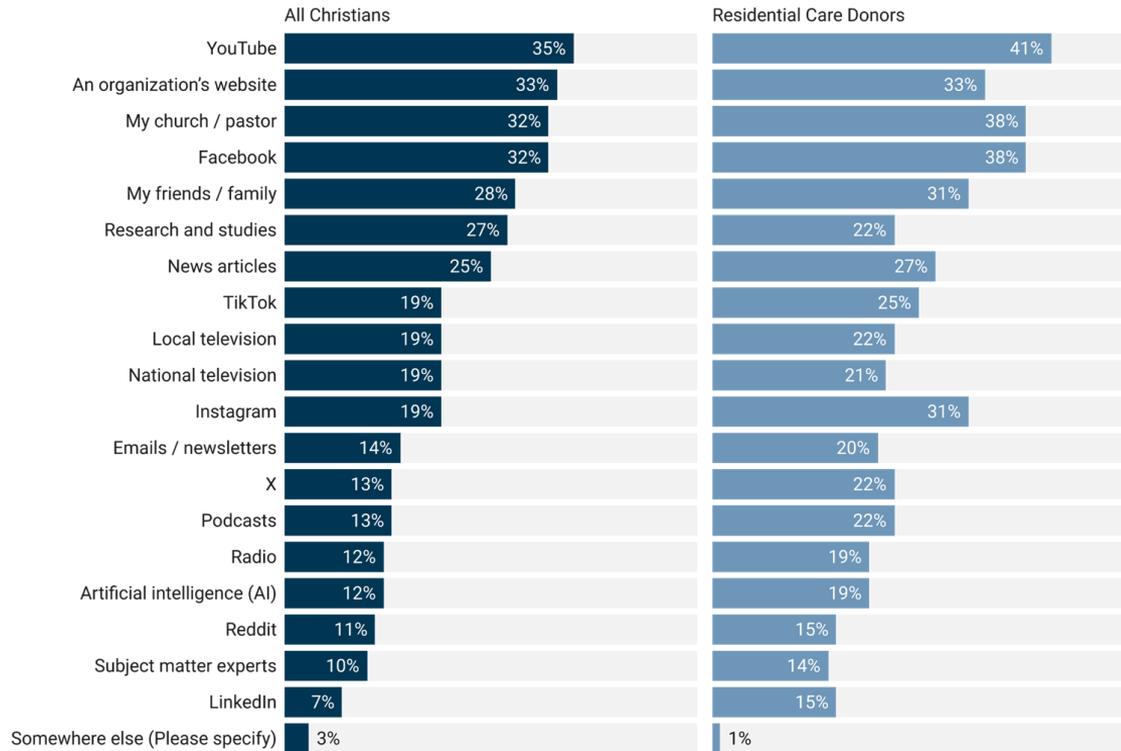
n=3,351 Self-ID Christians, 2025. | 22 Message Statements Were Shown, Number Above is Sum of "More Interested" Across All Statements Divided by 22.

Who is the most interested in the messages this survey tested?

Interest was strongest among Christians who currently give to residential care and practicing Christians, followed by younger generations (Gen Z, Millennials, and Gen X), non-Mainline Christians, and women.

If you wanted to learn more about a global issue that you may charitably engage with (such as international poverty, children in need or orphan care) where would you look for information?

Select all that apply



n=3,351 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians, September - October 2025.

Across all Christians, the top sources for learning are:

- YouTube (35%)
- An organization's website (33%)
- My church/pastor (32%)
- Facebook (32%)

Residential Care Donors are consistently more likely than other Christians to explore information across multiple channels.

Top 5 Messages: Residential Care Donors | Percentages indicate % “More Interested”

Gives to Residential Care		Does not Give to Residential Care	
Strengthening the capacity of families to provide and care for children prevents separation of children from their families, and reduces placement in orphanages.	74%	Even the best orphanages struggle to meet children’s needs.	53%
Organizations around the world are partnering with local and national governments to advocate for family care policies, implement kinship care, foster care, and adoption programs, and help orphanages transition to family care models.	71%	Family is for a lifetime. You never “age out” of a family like you can age out of an orphanage.	53%
Imagine your child or a special child in your life. What if you or the child’s parents were not available to care for him or her? What kind of care would you desire?	71%	Imagine your child or a special child in your life. What if you or the child’s parents were not available to care for him or her? What kind of care would you desire?	52%
U.S. Christians are major supporters of orphanages and other forms of residential care for vulnerable children around the world.	71%	Strengthening the capacity of families to provide and care for children prevents separation of children from their families, and reduces placement in orphanages.	52%
Research reveals that living in an orphanage, especially for a long time or at a young age, has negative impacts on a child’s physical, intellectual, and social-emotional development.	69%	As Christians, we have an important role to play in seeing children cared for in safe, loving families.	52%

Top 5 statements that group rated as being “more interested” in

Top 5 Messages: Gender | Percentages indicate % “More Interested”

Men		Women	
Family is for a lifetime. You never “age out” of a family like you can age out of an orphanage.	58%	Strengthening the capacity of families to provide and care for children prevents separation of children from their families, and reduces placement in orphanages.	60%
Strengthening the capacity of families to provide and care for children prevents separation of children from their families, and reduces placement in orphanages.	56%	Imagine your child or a special child in your life. What if you or the child’s parents were not available to care for him or her? What kind of care would you desire?	60%
Imagine your child or a special child in your life. What if you or the child’s parents were not available to care for him or her? What kind of care would you desire?	55%	Even the best orphanages struggle to meet children’s needs.	60%
Even the best orphanages struggle to meet children’s needs.	54%	Research reveals that living in an orphanage, especially for a long time or at a young age, has negative impacts on a child’s physical, intellectual, and social-emotional development.	58%
U.S. Christians are major supporters of orphanages and other forms of residential care for vulnerable children around the world.	53%	We need to change the focus from visiting and funding orphanages to providing support to vulnerable families.	58%

Top 5 statements that group rated as being “more interested” in

Top 5 Messages: Generations | *Percentages indicate % “More Interested”*

Gen Z	
Family is for a lifetime. You never “age out” of a family like you can age out of an orphanage.	67%
We need to change the focus from visiting and funding orphanages to providing support to vulnerable families.	66%
While residential care facilities, like orphanages and children’s homes, can provide for physical needs like food, water, and shelter, they can’t provide all of the developmental, social, and emotional support a child requires to thrive long-term.	61%
Research reveals that living in an orphanage, especially for a long time or at a young age, has negative impacts on a child’s physical, intellectual, and social-emotional development.	61%
Poverty -- not the loss of parents -- is often the underlying reason why children are placed in orphanages.	61%

Gen X	
As Christians, we have an important role to play in seeing children cared for in safe, loving families.	60%
Family is for a lifetime. You never “age out” of a family like you can age out of an orphanage.	59%
Even the best orphanages struggle to meet children’s needs.	59%
While residential care facilities, like orphanages and children’s homes, can provide for physical needs like food, water, and shelter, they can’t provide all of the developmental, social, and emotional support a child requires to thrive long-term.	58%
Imagine your child or a special child in your life. What if you or the child’s parents were not available to care for him or her? What kind of care would you desire?	58%

Millennials	
Strengthening the capacity of families to provide and care for children prevents separation of children from their families, and reduces placement in orphanages.	66%
U.S. Christians are major supporters of orphanages and other forms of residential care for vulnerable children around the world.	65%
Imagine your child or a special child in your life. What if you or the child’s parents were not available to care for him or her? What kind of care would you desire?	61%
Organizations around the world are partnering with local and national governments to advocate for family care policies, implement kinship care, foster care, and adoption programs, and help orphanages transition to family care models.	61%
Even the best orphanages struggle to meet children’s needs.	60%

Boomers	
Imagine your child or a special child in your life. What if you or the child’s parents were not available to care for him or her? What kind of care would you desire?	55%
God created family as told in the first chapters of Genesis and like other things in creation, family represents God’s good intentions for the world. In Psalm 68:6, we read “God sets the lonely in families,” recognizing God’s intention is for families to be the source of belonging.	53%
Strengthening the capacity of families to provide and care for children prevents separation of children from their families, and reduces placement in orphanages.	52%
Even the best orphanages struggle to meet children’s needs.	52%
We need to change the focus from visiting and funding orphanages to providing support to vulnerable families.	50%

Practicing Christians		Non-Practicing Christians	
God created family as told in the first chapters of Genesis and like other things in creation, family represents God’s good intentions for the world. In Psalm 68:6, we read “God sets the lonely in families,” recognizing God’s intention is for families to be the source of belonging.	71%	Strengthening the capacity of families to provide and care for children prevents separation of children from their families, and reduces placement in orphanages.	53%
Imagine your child or a special child in your life. What if you or the child’s parents were not available to care for him or her? What kind of care would you desire?	67%	Even the best orphanages struggle to meet children’s needs.	53%
Strengthening the capacity of families to provide and care for children prevents separation of children from their families, and reduces placement in orphanages.	67%	Imagine your child or a special child in your life. What if you or the child’s parents were not available to care for him or her? What kind of care would you desire?	52%
As Christians, we have an important role to play in seeing children cared for in safe, loving families.	66%	Family is for a lifetime. You never “age out” of a family like you can age out of an orphanage.	52%
Organizations around the world are partnering with local and national governments to advocate for family care policies, implement kinship care, foster care, and adoption programs, and help orphanages transition to family care models.	66%	While residential care facilities, like orphanages and children’s homes, can provide for physical needs like food, water, and shelter, they can’t provide all of the developmental, social, and emotional support a child requires to thrive long-term.	52%

Top 5 statements that group rated as being “more interested” in

Top 5 Messages: Denomination | Percentages indicate % “More Interested”

Non-Mainline	
Organizations around the world are partnering with local and national governments to advocate for family care policies, implement kinship care, foster care, and adoption programs, and help orphanages transition to family care models.	63%
As Christians, we have an important role to play in seeing children cared for in safe, loving families.	62%
Strengthening the capacity of families to provide and care for children prevents separation of children from their families, and reduces placement in orphanages.	61%
Even the best orphanages struggle to meet children’s needs.	61%
While residential care facilities, like orphanages and children’s homes, can provide for physical needs like food, water, and shelter, they can’t provide all of the developmental, social, and emotional support a child requires to thrive long-term.	59%

Mainline	
U.S. Christians are major supporters of orphanages and other forms of residential care for vulnerable children around the world.	54%
Even the best orphanages struggle to meet children’s needs.	52%
God created family as told in the first chapters of Genesis and like other things in creation, family represents God’s good intentions for the world. In Psalm 68:6, we read “God sets the lonely in families,” recognizing God’s intention is for families to be the source of belonging.	49%
Research reveals that living in an orphanage, especially for a long time or at a young age, has negative impacts on a child’s physical, intellectual, and social-emotional development.	49%
While the U.S. has largely moved away from an orphanage model of care for children, we are still supporting them abroad.	48%

Catholic	
Imagine your child or a special child in your life. What if you or the child’s parents were not available to care for him or her? What kind of care would you desire?	60%
Strengthening the capacity of families to provide and care for children prevents separation of children from their families, and reduces placement in orphanages.	57%
Family is for a lifetime. You never “age out” of a family like you can age out of an orphanage.	55%
Children raised in orphanages tend to struggle into adulthood more than children raised in families.	55%
Adults who grew up in orphanages commonly say what they really wanted was a family.	55%

Top 5 statements that group rated as being “more interested” in

5 | Key Denominational Differences

Residential Care Donorship

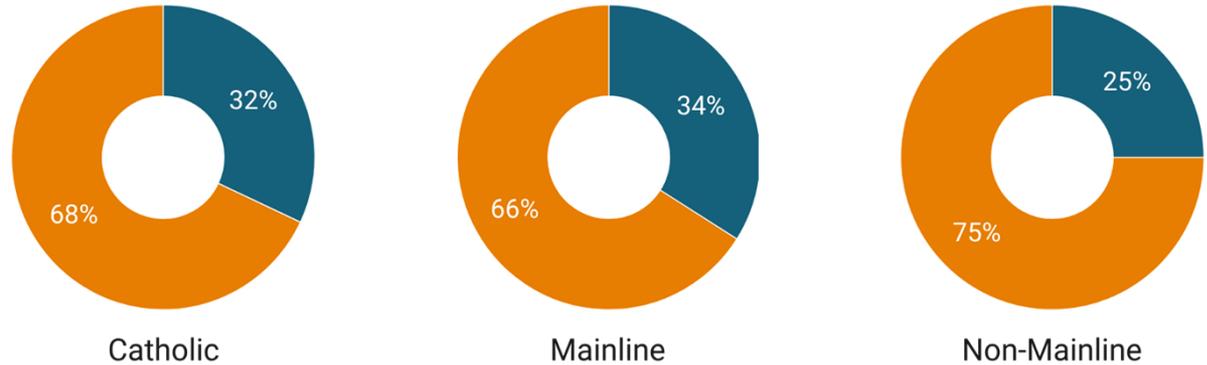
Mainline Protestants and Catholics are more likely to financially support residential care than Non-Mainline Protestants.

How do they give?

Catholic Residential Care Donors are slightly more likely to give via child sponsorship (79% of Catholic recurring givers, vs. 69% and 68% of Mainline and Non-Mainline recurring givers)

Residential care donor

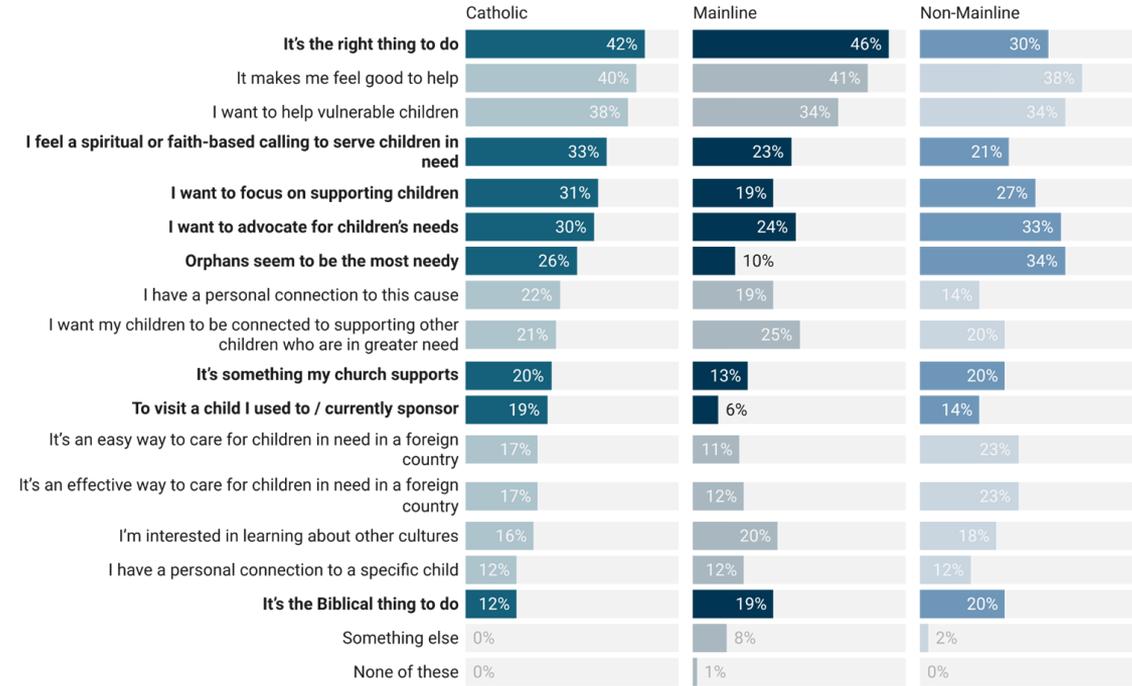
Residential Care Supporter Non Supporter



n=3,351 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians, September - October 2025.

Using the following list, are any of the following reasons why you support orphanages, children's homes or other residential care programs for children?

Select all that apply.



n=3,351 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians, September - October 2025. | Significant differences are bolded.

Why do they give to residential care?

Numerous unique differences exist across denominations. Some of the most noticeable include...

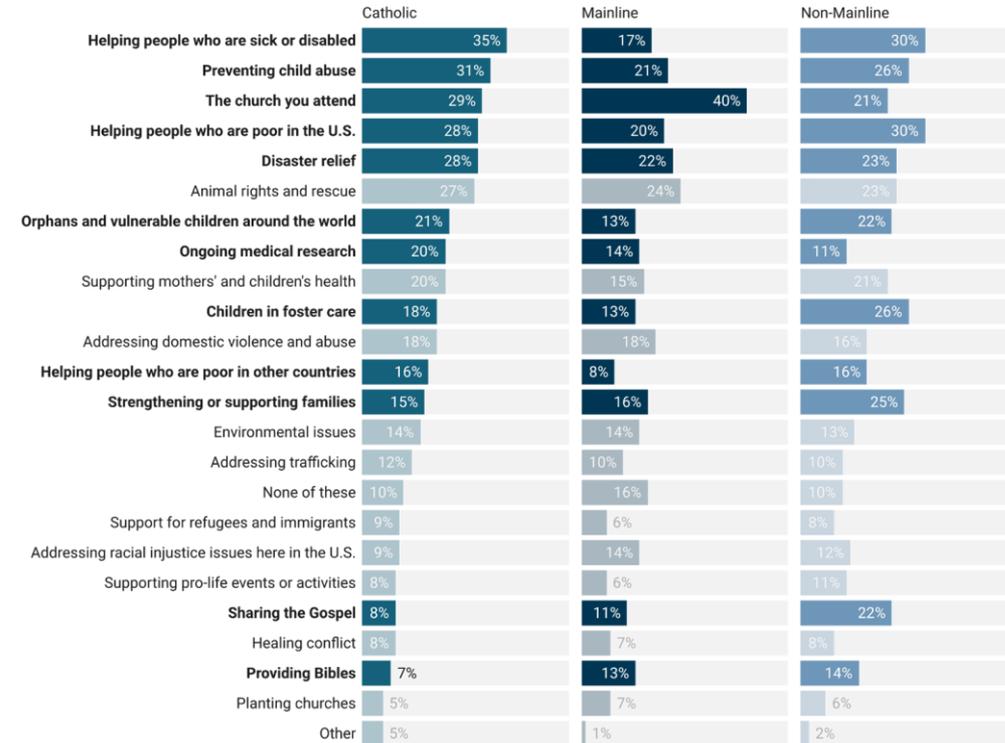
Compared to Protestants, Catholics are more likely to say they give because...

- “I feel a spiritual or faith-based calling to serve children in need” (33% vs. 23% and 21% Mainline and Non-Mainline Protestants)
- To visit/support a child I used to/currently sponsor (19% vs. 6% and 14% Mainline and Non-Mainline Protestants)

On the other hand, Catholics are less likely to say they give “because it’s the biblical thing to do” (12% vs. 19% and 20%)

Generally, when it comes to donating money, which of the following causes do you consider to be most important for you, personally, to support?

Select up to 7.



n=3,351 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians, September - October 2025. | Significant differences are bolded

What causes are they interested in supporting?

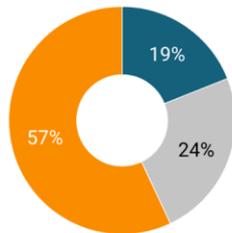
Compared to Mainline and Non-Mainline Protestants, Catholics are more likely to express interest in giving to...

- Disaster relief (28% vs. 22% and 23%)
- Ongoing medical research (20% vs. 14% and 11% Protestants)
- Helping people who are sick or disabled (35% vs 17% and 30% Protestants)
- Preventing child abuse (31% vs. 21% and 26% Protestants)

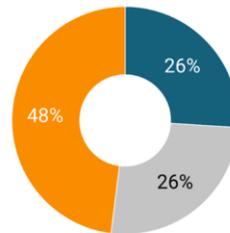
Mainline Protestants stand out in their dedication to supporting their own church.

Have you ever been on a mission or service trip?

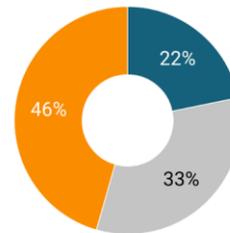
■ Yes ■ No, but I have considered it ■ No



Catholic



Mainline



Non-Mainline

n=3,351 U.S. Adult Self-Identifying Christians, September - October 2025.

How do different traditions engage missions trips?

19% of Catholics, 26% of Mainline, and 22% of Non-Mainline Protestants have been on a mission trip.

What did they do on a mission trip?

When on a mission trip, compared to Protestants, Catholics are more likely to have worked with children in an afterschool program. They are no more or less likely to have visited Residential Care.

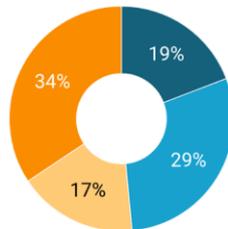
What about future trips?

Non-Mainline Protestants the most likely to express interest in going on a mission trip in the future (Non-Mainline: 63% very + somewhat likely vs. Mainline Protestants: 56%, compared to 48% of Catholics).

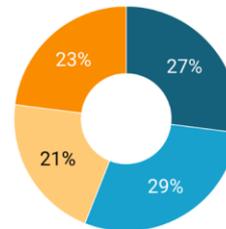
Among those interested in going on a mission trip in the future, Protestants and Catholics are essentially no different in what they would be interested in doing on this trip. 33% of Catholics and 30% of Protestants say they would want to visit an orphanage, children's home or residential care facility, which is not a statistically significant difference.

How likely are you to participate in a mission trip in the future?

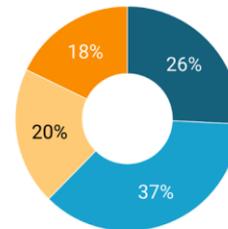
■ Very likely ■ Somewhat likely ■ Not very likely ■ Not at all likely



Catholic



Mainline

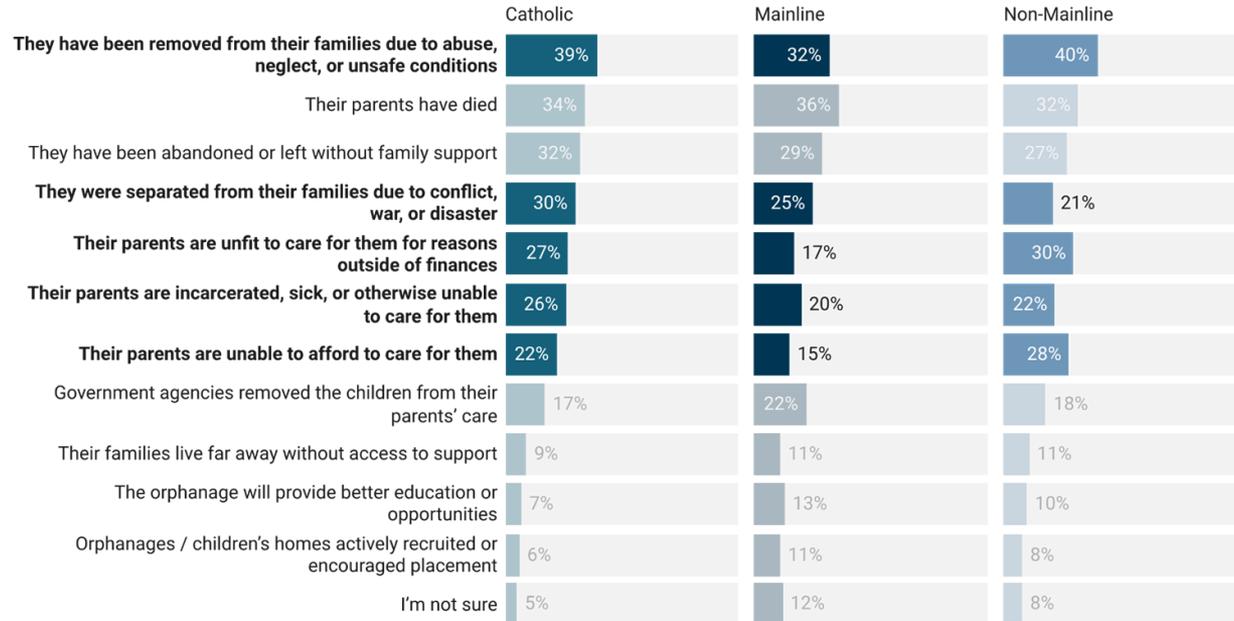


Non-Mainline

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To your knowledge, which of the following are the most common reasons why children are placed in orphanages, children's homes or residential care programs around the world?

Select up to three.



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What do different traditions know about residential care and orphans?

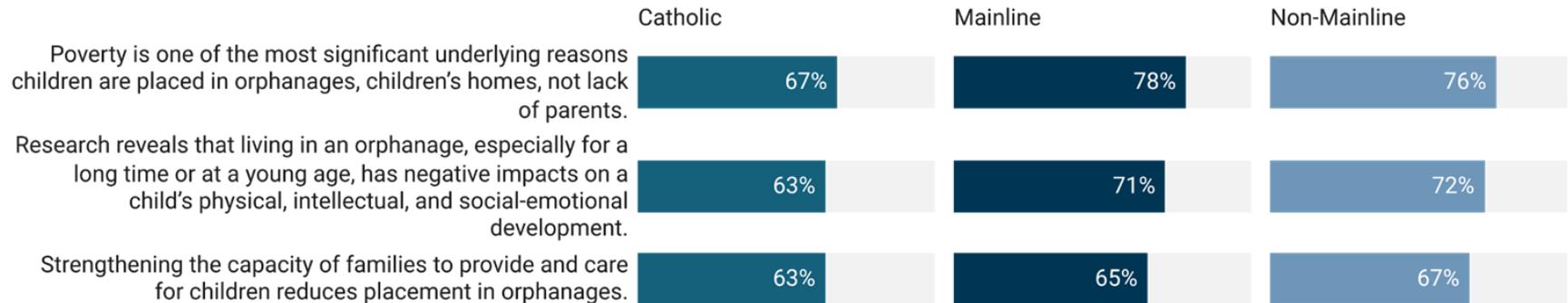
When asked what they believe the most common reasons why children are placed into residential care, Catholics are more likely to say “they were separated from their families due to conflict, war or disaster” and “their parents were incarcerated, sick or otherwise unable to care for them.”

Catholics are about 10 percentage points less likely to express awareness that “Poverty is one of the most significant underlying reasons children are placed in orphanages, children’s homes, not lack of parents” (78% Mainline and 76% Non-Mainline Protestants vs 67% Catholics).

Catholics are less likely to express awareness that “Research reveals that living in an orphanage, especially for a long time or at a young age, has negative impacts on a child’s physical, intellectual, and social-emotional development” (71% Mainline and 72% Non-Mainline Protestants vs 63% Catholics)

Before participating in this survey, were you aware of this information?

% Who say they are aware



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